Part II. Cables Outside and Entering Buildings

840.47 Underground Wires and Cables Entering Buildings. Direct-buried cables shall be installed to have a minimum cover of 150 mm (6 in.).

Part III. Protection

840.90 Protective Devices. The requirements of 805.90 shall apply.

840.93 Grounding or Interruption. Non-current-carrying metallic members of optical fiber cables, communications cables, or coaxial cables entering buildings or attaching to buildings shall comply with 840.93(A), (B), or (C), respectively.

(A) Non-Current-Carrying Metallic Members of Optical Fiber Cables. Non-current-carrying metallic members of optical fiber cables entering a building or terminating on the outside of a building shall comply with 770.93(A) or (B).

(B) Communications Cables. The grounding or interruption of the metallic sheath of communications cable shall comply with 805.93.

(C) Coaxial Cables. Where the network terminal is installed inside or outside of the building, with coaxial cables terminating at the network terminal, and is either entering, exiting, or attached to the outside of the building, 820.93 shall apply.

840.94 Premises Circuits Leaving the Building. Where circuits leave the building to power equipment remote to the building or outside the exterior zone of protection defined by a 46 m (150 ft) radius rolling sphere, 805.90 and 805.93 shall apply.

Informational Note: See NFPA 780-2020, *Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems*, for the theory of the term *rolling sphere*.

Part IV. Grounding Methods

840.101 Premises Circuits Not Leaving the Building. If the network terminal is served by a nonconductive optical fiber cable, or where any non-current-carrying metal member of a conductive optical fiber cable is interrupted by an insulating joint or equivalent device, and circuits that terminate at the network terminal are completely contained within the building (i.e., they do not exit the building), 840.101(A), (B), or (C) shall apply, as applicable.

(A) Coaxial Cable Shield Grounding. The shield of coaxial cable shall be grounded by one of the following:

(1) Any of the methods described in 820.100 or 800.106
(2) A fixed connection to an equipment grounding conductor as described in 250.118
(3) Connection to the network terminal grounding terminal provided that the terminal is connected to ground by one of the methods described in 820.100 or 800.106, or to an equipment grounding conductor through a listed grounding device that will retain the ground connection if the network terminal is unplugged

The coaxial shield is permitted to be grounded through the optical network terminal (ONT) if the ONT grounding connection is permanent or the connection is to an equipment grounding conductor (EGC) through a listed grounding device that will retain the grounding connection if the ONT is unplugged.

(B) Communications Circuit Grounding. Communications circuits shall not be required to be grounded.

(C) Network Terminal Grounding. The network terminal shall not be required to be grounded unless required by its listing. If the coaxial cable shield is separately grounded as described in 840.101(A)(1) or 840.101(A)(2), the use of a cord and plug for the connection to the network terminal grounding connection shall be permitted.

Informational Note: If required to be grounded, a listed device that extends the equipment grounding conductor from the receptacle to the network terminal equipment grounding terminal is permitted. Sizing of the extended equipment grounding conductor is covered in Table 250.122.

840.102 Premises Circuits Leaving the Building. If circuits leave the building to power equipment remote to the building or outside the exterior zone of protection defined by a 46 m (150 ft) radius rolling sphere, the installation of communications wires and cables shall comply with 800.100 and 800.106, and the installation of coaxial cables shall comply with 820.100 and 800.106.

Informational Note: See NFPA 780-2020, *Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems*, for the application of the term *rolling sphere*.

Part VI. Premises Powering of Communications Equipment over Communications Cables

Δ **840.160 Powering Circuits.** Listed communications cables, in addition to carrying the communications circuit, shall also be permitted to carry circuits for powering listed communications equipment. The power source shall be listed in accordance with 840.170(C). Installation of the listed 4-pair communications cables for a communications circuit or installation where 4-pair communications cables are substituted for Class 2 and Class 3 cables in accordance with 722.135(E) shall comply with 725.144.

Exception: Installing communications cables in compliance with 725.144 shall not be required for listed 4-pair communications cables where the rated current of the power source does not exceed 0.3 amperes in any conductor 24 AWG or larger.

Informational Note No. 1: A typical communications cable for this application is a 4-pair cable sometimes referred to as Category 5e (or higher) LAN cable or balanced twisted pair cable.