

AFC FIELD REPORT: Jacketed Metal-Clad Cable



AFC MCJ CABLE SPEEDS UP ATLANTA OLYMPIC STADIUM PROJECT

With the \$210 million concept of an Olympic Stadium in downtown Atlanta, contractors trying to meet both specifications and a strict timetable were faced with a challenge that even

“Our schedule did not allow for conventional conduit.”

Zeus himself would appreciate.

And a challenge is exactly what it was. Contractor Inglett and Stubbs of Atlanta was in charge of the high profile project, conceived just 3 years prior to the start of the

1996 Summer Olympic games. Construction of an 85,000 capacity stadium that could also later function as a home for the Atlanta Braves posed unique problems for contractors trying to map out the electrical situation.

Problems, planners say, that could not be efficiently solved with pipe and wire. Because their schedule dictated virtually no float time, or room for do-overs or fluffing, electrical contractor Louie Lassetter of CCC Electric in Georgia demanded a solution that would conserve time and labor without cutting corners.

The answer was jacketed metal clad cable from AFC. Lassetter

used more than 500,000 feet of various lengths of MCJ, buried in concrete slab to wire the stadium.

“Our schedule did not allow for conventional conduit. It was a fast-track job,” said Lassetter.

“It cut my time and labor by at least 20%.”

“We’re talking about the centerpiece of the Olympics, here.”

The Atlanta Stadium is slated to showcase the track and field competitions and also the highly-publicized opening ceremonies. And with

the world watching, it was no time for unsightly exposed conduit. "That was our alternative. So we buried the cable right into the concrete slab," commented Lassetter.

Submerging the cable in concrete or burying it underground is one of the properties of jacketed MC cable that makes it unique.

MCJ cable is designed for the maximum in circuit protection, identification and safety. THHN/THWN insulated copper conductors feature a 90°C dry, 75°C wet temperature rating, an effective ground for sensitive applications through the internal copper grounding conductor, and an overall PVC jacket to provide circuit identification and the maximum in physical protection.

MCJ cable has copper conductors in sizes 18 thru 10 AWG solid, 8 thru 1/0 AWG stranded and bare or insulated ground wire. All conductors are cabled with an inserted marker tape and overall assembly tape. It is sheathed in a galvanized steel interlocked armor, with a PVC jacket overall.

The list of classified and specific locations, according to the 1996 National Electrical Code, for which jacketed metal clad cable can be used is very extensive. Refineries, chemical plants, grain and food storage and



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processing centers, coal pulverizing plants, textile mills, cotton gins and woodworking plants are only some of the installations where MCJ cable can replace pipe and wire.

MCJ cable may also be used in hazardous locations such as commercial garages, aircraft hangers, gasoline dispensing and service stations, bulk storage plants and finish-

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ing processes. Grounding is assured through combined armor and green ground conductor when used with specially designed connectors.

With all these features, MCJ is nosing ahead of its predecessors with a 30 to 50 percent time, labor and money savings.

This insured its role into bringing the Olympics home in 1996.

Lassetter said that “the critical issue for us was definitely the savings in time and labor.” Installing pipe into the stadium meant that contractors would have to tangle with fittings and couplings, and also allow for the pipe to be bent in certain places. “It takes a lot longer to install it in the slab.”

Wiring would also

have to be exposed, a cosmetic suicide for such a high-profile construction.

“It cut my time and labor by at least 20 percent,” said Lassetter. The cost of the electrical nuances for the Atlanta Stadium was kept down to around \$8 million. “Doing the project with pipe and wire would surely have jacked that figure up,” said Lassetter.

Jacketed Metal Clad cable from AFC was the only solution for them. Now Lassetter is looking to MCJ cable for other projects he is working on.

AFC Cable Systems, Inc, is a leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of electrical distribution products, including pre-wired armored and metal-clad electric cables, flexible wiring systems, flexible conduit and fittings for industrial, residential and commercial construction.

