Trough-type cable tray over 1 meter long

Overview

Trough Type Cable Tray Guide: Load, Installation & BenefitsA professional guide to trough type cable trays. Explore load capacity charts, installation guid.

Key Takeaways

A one-meter section of trough-type cable tray is a rigid, U-shaped structure designed to support and protect electrical and data cables, available in solid or ventilated bottoms with side rails for structural strength.

Overview

A trough-type cable tray is a continuous, rigid system used to securely support insulated electrical cables. Unlike ladder-type trays, it features a solid or ventilated bottom, which provides superior cable support and protection against dust, moisture, and falling debris, making it ideal for horizontal runs where minimal cable sag is critical. The side rails contain cables and add structural strength, while the modular design allows easy customization and expansion.

Dimensions and Material

Standard Lengths: While cable trays are commonly manufactured in lengths of 12, 20, 24, and 30 feet, a one-meter section is approximately 3. 28 feet, which can be cut or ordered to fit specific installations. Widths and Sidewall Heights: Typical widths range from 100 mm to 600 mm, with sidewall heights from 50 mm to 150 mm, depending on cable volume and load requirements.

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Material: Trough trays are commonly made from steel, aluminum, or stainless steel, with finishes such as pre-galvanized, hot-dip galvanized, or powder-coated for corrosion resistance. Aluminum offers a high strength-to-weight ratio and excellent corrosion resistance, while steel provides higher load capacity.

Load Capacity

The load capacity of a trough-type cable tray depends on material, gauge thickness, tray width, and support spacing. Steel trays generally support heavier cable loads than aluminum trays of the same dimensions. Exceeding the rated load can lead to structural failure or cable damage, so it is essential to consult manufacturer load charts for the specific tray section.

Installation Considerations

Support Spacing: Short-span trays are typically supported every 6–8 feet, while intermediate spans are supported every 10–12 feet. For a one-meter section, support is usually provided at both ends. Solid vs Ventilated Bottom: Solid bottoms offer maximum protection for sensitive cables, while ventilated bottoms allow heat dissipation and reduce weight.

Modularity: Sections can be joined using splice plates or connectors to create longer runs, ensuring flexibility in layout and future expansion. ApplicationsTrough-type cable trays are suitable for industrial plants, commercial buildings, and data centers, supporting large volumes of power and control cables. They are particularly advantageous where cable protection, minimal sag, and organized routing are priorities.

In summary, a one-meter trough-type cable tray is a versatile, protective, and modular solution for cable management, with dimensions, material, and load capacity tailored to the specific installation requirements.

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