ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-A and ISO/IEC 11801
The latest editions of the ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-A('568-A) and ISO/IEC 11801 cabling standards were both published in 1995. The following guide provides some of the requirements and recommendations of each standard including differences between them.

ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-A
Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard
The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) TR42.1 Working Group on telecommunications cabling published the ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-A standard in 1995. TIA is working on revising '568-A standard, which will be called '568-B. This new standard will be approved by the end of year 2000.

ISO/IEC 11801
Information Technology – Generic Cabling For Customer Premises
The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) SC 25/WG 3 Working Group on telecommunications cabling published the ISO/IEC 11801 standard in 1995.

Following are highlights of the '568-A standard and related Telecommunication Systems Bulletins (TSBs) with notes on differences in terminology and technical requirements with respect to '11801. For clarity and consistency, '568-A based terminology is used in the following overview.

Purpose
- To specify a generic voice and data telecommunications cabling system that will support a multi-product, multi-vendor environment.

- To provide direction for the design of telecommunications equipment and cabling products intended to serve commercial enterprises.

- To enable the planning and installation of a structured cabling system for commercial buildings that is capable of supporting the diverse telecommunications needs of building occupants.

- To establish performance and technical criteria for various types of cable and connecting hardware and for cabling system design and installation.

Scope

- Specifications are intended for telecommunications installations that are "office oriented."

- Requirements are for a structured cabling system with a usable life in excess of 10 years.

- Specifications addressed:
  - Recognized Media
  - Cable and Connecting Hardware
  - Performance
  - Topology
  - Cabling Distance
  - Installation Practices
  - User Interfaces
  - Channel Performance

Cabling Elements

- Horizontal Cabling:
  - Horizontal Cross-Connect (HC)
  - Horizontal Cable
  - Consolidation Point (CP)(optional)
  - Transition Point (TP)(optional)
  - Telecommunications Outlet/Connector (TO)

- Backbone Cabling:
  - Main Cross-Connect (MC)
  - Interbuilding Backbone Cable
  - Intermediate Cross-Connect (IC)
  - Intrabuilding Backbone Cable

- Work Area (WA)
- Telecommunications Closet (TC)
- Equipment Room (ER)
- Entrance Facility (EF)
- Administration