

What do they mean by Cat 5, 6 and 7 cabling?

Category	Bandwidth	Non technical explanation
Cat 5 ¹ (Class D old)	Certified up to 100Mhz	Cat 5 is a communications path equivalent to a 5 lane highway. The condition of the highway is such that the maximum speed you can travel at is 100Kmph
Cat 5e ¹ (Class D New)	Certified up to 100MHZ	Cat 5 is a communications path equivalent to a 5 lane highway. The condition of the highway is such that the maximum speed you can travel at is 100Kmph. In this case there are additional specifications for the highway such as height of tunnels, overpasses, width of the lanes etc. This way not only can you travel at 100Kmph but you can confidently build a bus that is 5 lanes wide and multi-story maximising the number of passengers that can be carried
Cat 6 ¹ (Class E)	Certified to 250MHZ	Cat 6 is a communications path equivalent to a 6 lane highway. The condition of the highway is such that the maximum speed you can travel at is 250Kmph. In this case there are additional specifications for the highway such as height of tunnels, overpasses, width of the lanes etc. This way not only can you travel at 250Kmph but you can confidently build a bus that is 6 lanes wide and multi-story maximising the number of passengers that can be carried
Cat 7 ¹ (Class F)	Certified to 600MHZ	Cat 7 is a communications path equivalent to a 7 lane highway. The condition of the highway is such that the maximum speed you can travel at is 600Kmph. In this case there are additional specifications for the highway such as height of tunnels, overpasses, width of the lanes etc. This way not only can you travel at 600Kmph but you can confidently build a bus that is 7 lanes wide and multi-story maximising the number of passengers that can be carried

Note 1; Categories are defined by the US standard EIA/TIA 568 B, whilst the Australian Standard AS 3080 defines Classes

As the speed increases the curves on the road become more critical as does the bending radius of the cable.

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Training