

**tyco**

Electronics

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## **Memorandum**

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**Date** 06/05/03  
**To** E.R.Giles  
**From** N. H. Dye  
**Subject** Cable Storage Suggestions:

*The following are some suggestions regarding maintenance and lubrication of a used cable that is to be placed in storage.*

*1) Rinse the cable with freshwater as soon as practical. One wants to wash away as much of the salt as possible. If this can be done during final inhaul, it may be more effective.*

*2) Apply a low viscosity "penetrating" type cable lubricant. Please find attached a data sheet describing such a lube. These types of lubes can be applied during inhaul (only), as part of a spooling over, or simply to the exterior of the cable on the winch drum. If there are multiple layers on the winch, this last method becomes less effective. If possible, this same lube should be applied once a week or after every other dive when in the field. (Do note that the use of heavy grease like lube is not recommended. Such can actually accelerate corrosion of used cables.) Penetrating lubes can be applied with a garden sprayer, a drip lubricator, or even a large brush if not much cable is involved. Be sure to thoroughly agitate the lube prior to application (very important). A drip pan or absorbent mat should be placed under the winch/cable to catch the excess.*

*3) Once the cable is rinsed and lubed, it should be protected from the elements. The covering should be such that it permits good air flow, yet keeps weather from degrading the protective film applied. The cable should be re-lubed every 30 days.*

*4) If the armor surface shows white rust, do not attempt to remove it. This is the zinc galvanizing doing it's job to protect the underlying steel. Significant evidence of red rust means of course that the steel is already exposed, cable life will be limited.*

*5) Cautionary note - Galvanic action will quickly degrade the zinc coating on any armored cable. If extremely rapid zinc loss occurs, the entire hardware system should be examined to determine if a galvanic circuit exists.*