

Cable Tray Selection-Width and Available Loading Depth

Allowable Cable Fill

For allowable cable types see the Appendix page A-9.

The following guidelines are based on the 2002 National Electrical Code, Article 392.

I) Number of Multiconductor Cables rated 2000 volts or less in the Cable Tray

(1) 4/0 or Larger Cables

The ladder cable tray must have an inside available width equal to or greater than the sum of the diameters (Sd) of the cables, which must be installed in a single layer. When using solid bottom cable tray, the sum of the cable diameters is not to exceed 90% of the available cable tray width.

Example: Cable Tray width is obtained as follows:

List Cable Sizes	(D) List Cable Outside Diameter	(N) List Number of Cables	Multiply (D) x (N) = Subtotal of the Sum of the Cable Diameters
3/C - #500 kcmil	2.26 inches	1	2.26 inches
3/C - #250 kcmil	1.76 inches	2	3.52 inches
3/C - #4/0 AWG	1.55 inches	4	6.20 inches

The sum of the diameters (Sd) of all cables = 2.26 + 3.52 + 6.20 = 11.98 inches; therefore a cable tray with an available width of at least 12 inches is required.

(2) Cables Smaller Than 4/0

The total sum of the cross-sectional areas of all the cables to be installed in the cable tray must be equal to or less than the allowable cable area for the tray width, as indicated in Table 3. When using solid bottom cable tray, the allowable cable area is reduced by 22%.

Cable Tray Selection-Width and Available Loading Depth

Allowable Cable Fill

Table 3

Inside Width of Cable Tray inches	Allowable Cable Area square inches
6	7.0
9	10.5
12	14.0
18	21.0
24	28.0

Example: The cable tray width is obtained as follows:

List Cable Sizes	(A) List Cable Cross Sectional Areas	(N) List Number of Cables	Multiply (A) x (N) = Total of the Cross-Sectional Area for each Size
3/C - #12 AWG	0.167 sq. in.	10	1.67 sq. in.
4/C - #12 AWG	0.190 sq. in.	8	1.52 sq. in.
3/C - # 6 AWG	0.430 sq. in.	6	2.58 sq. in.
3/C - # 2 AWG	0.800 sq. in.	9	7.20 sq. in.

The sum of the total areas is $1.67 + 1.52 + 2.58 + 7.20 = 12.97$ inches. Using Table 3, a 12-inch wide tray with an allowable cable area of 14 sq. inches should be used.

Note: Increasing the cable tray loading depth does not permit an increase in allowable cable area for power and lighting cables. The maximum allowable cable area for all cable tray with a 3 inch or greater loading depth is limited to the allowable cable area for a 3 inch loading depth.

(3) 4/0 or Larger Cables Installed with Cables Smaller than 4/0

The ladder cable tray needs to be divided into two zones (a barrier or divider is not required but one can be used if desired) so that the No. 4/0 and larger cables have a dedicated zone, as they are to be placed in a single layer.

A direct method to determine the correct cable tray width is to figure the cable tray widths required for each of the cable combinations per steps (2) & (3). Then add the widths in order to select the proper cable tray width.

Cable Tray Selection-Width and Available Loading Depth

Allowable Cable Fill

Example: The cable tray width is obtained as follows:

Part A- Width required for #4/0 AWG and larger multiconductor cables

List Cable Size	(D) List Cable Outside Diameter	(N) List Number of Cables	Multiply (D) x (N) = Subtotal of the Sum of the Cable Diameters (Sd)
3/C - #500 kcmil	2.26 inches	1	2.26 inches
3/C - #4/0 AGW	1.55 inches	2	3.10 inches

Cable tray width (inches) required for large cables = 2.26 + 3.10 = 5.36 inches.

Part B- Width required for multiconductor cables smaller than #4/0 AWG

List Cable Sizes	(A) List Cable Cross Sectional Areas	(N) List Number of Cables	Multiply (A) x (N) = Total of the Cross-Sectional Area for each Size
3/C - #12 AWG	0.167 sq. in.	10	1.67 sq. in.
3/C - #6 AWG	0.430 sq. in.	8	3.44 sq. in.
3/C - #2 AWG	0.800 sq. in.	2	1.60 sq. in.

The sum of the total areas (inches) = 1.67 + 3.44 + 1.60 = 6.71 sq. inches.
From Table 3, the cable tray width required for small cables is 6 inches.

The total cable tray width (inches) = 5.36 + 6.00 = 11.36 inches. A 12-inch wide cable tray is required.

(4) Multiconductor Control and/or Signal Cables Only

A ladder cable tray containing only control and/or signal cables, may have 50% of its total available cable area filled with cable. When using solid bottom cable tray pans, the allowable cable area is reduced from 50% to 40%.

Example: Cable tray width is obtained as follows:

2/C- #16 AWG instrumentation cable cross sectional area = 0.04 sq. in.

Total cross sectional area for 300 Cables = 12.00 sq. in.

Minimum available cable area needed = 12.00 x 2 = 24.00 sq. in.; therefore the cable tray width required for 4 inch available loading depth tray = 24.00/4 = 6 inches.

Cable Tray Selection-^{Width and Available Loading Depth}

Allowable Cable Fill

II) Number of Single Conductor Cables Rated 2000 Volts or Less in the Cable Tray

All single conductor cables to be installed in the cable tray must be 1/0 or larger, and are not to be installed with continuous bottom pans.

(1) 1000 KCMIL or Larger Cables

The sum of the diameters (Sd) for all single conductor cables to be installed shall not exceed the cable tray width. See Table 5.

(2) 250 KCMIL to 1000 KCMIL Cables

The total sum of the cross-sectional areas of all the single conductor cables to be installed in the cable tray must be equal to or less than the allowable cable area for the tray width, as indicated in Table 4. (Reference Table 6)

Table 4

Inside Width of Cable Tray inches	Allowable Cable Area square inches
6	6.50
9	9.50
12	13.00
18	19.50
24	26.00
30	32.50
36	39.00

(3) 1000 KCMIL or Larger Cables Installed with Cables Smaller Than 1000 KCMIL

The total sum of the cross-sectional areas of all the single conductor cables to be installed in the cable tray must be equal to or less than the allowable cable area for the tray width, as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5

Inside Width of Cable Tray inches	Allowable Cable Area square inches
6	6.50 - (1.1 Sd)
9	9.50 - (1.1 Sd)
12	13.00 - (1.1 Sd)
18	19.50 - (1.1 Sd)
24	26.00 - (1.1 Sd)
30	32.50 - (1.1 Sd)
36	39.00 - (1.1 Sd)

Allowable Cable Fill

(4) Single Conductor Cables 1/0 through 4/0

These single conductors must be installed in a single layer. See Table 6.

Note: It is the opinion of some that this practice may cause problems with unbalanced voltages. To avoid these potential problems, the individual conductors for this type of cable tray wiring system should be bundled with ties. The bundle should contain all of the three-phase conductors for the circuit, plus the neutral if used. The single conductor cables bundle should be firmly tied to the cable tray assembly at least every 6 feet.

Table 6
**Number of 600 Volt Single Conductor Cables
That May Be Installed in Ladder Cable Tray**

Single Conductor Size	Outside Diameter in.	Area sq. in.	Cable Tray Width				
			6 in.	9 in.	12 in.	18 in.	24 in.
1/0	0.58	-	10	15	20	31	41
2/0	0.62	-	9	14	19	29	38
3/0	0.68	-	8	13	17	26	35
4/0	0.73	-	8	12	16	24	32
250 Kcmil	0.84	.55	11	18	24	35	47
350 Kcmil	0.94	.69	9	14	19	28	38
500 Kcmil	1.07	.90	7	11	14	22	29
750 Kcmil	1.28	1.29	5	8	10	15	20
1000 Kcmil	1.45	-	4	6	8	12	16

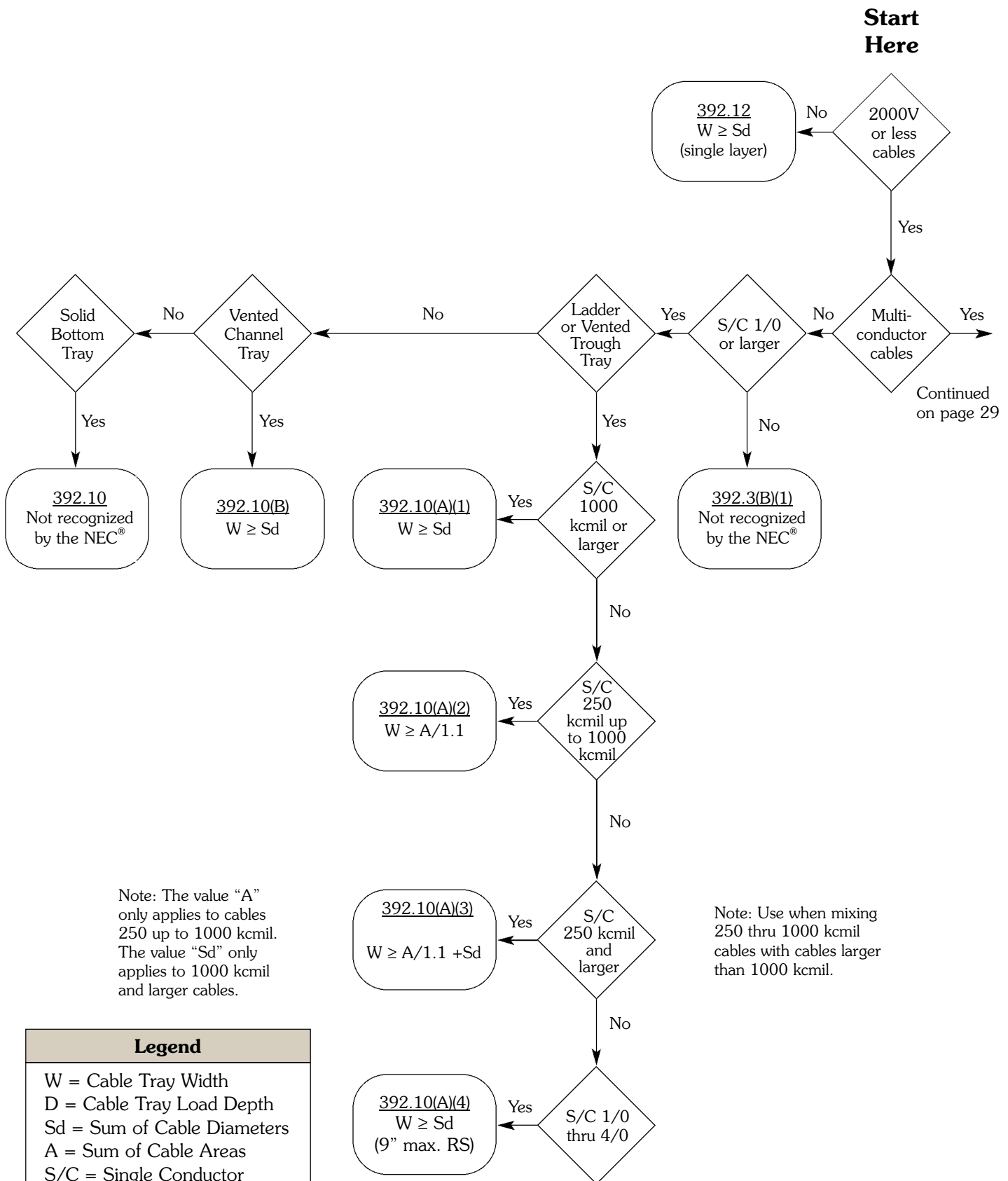
Cable diameters used are those for Oknite-Okolon 600 volt single conductor power cables.

III) Number of Type MV and MC Cables Rated 2001 Volts or Over in the Cable Tray

The sum of the diameters (Sd) of all cables, rated 2001 volts or over, is not to exceed the cable tray width.

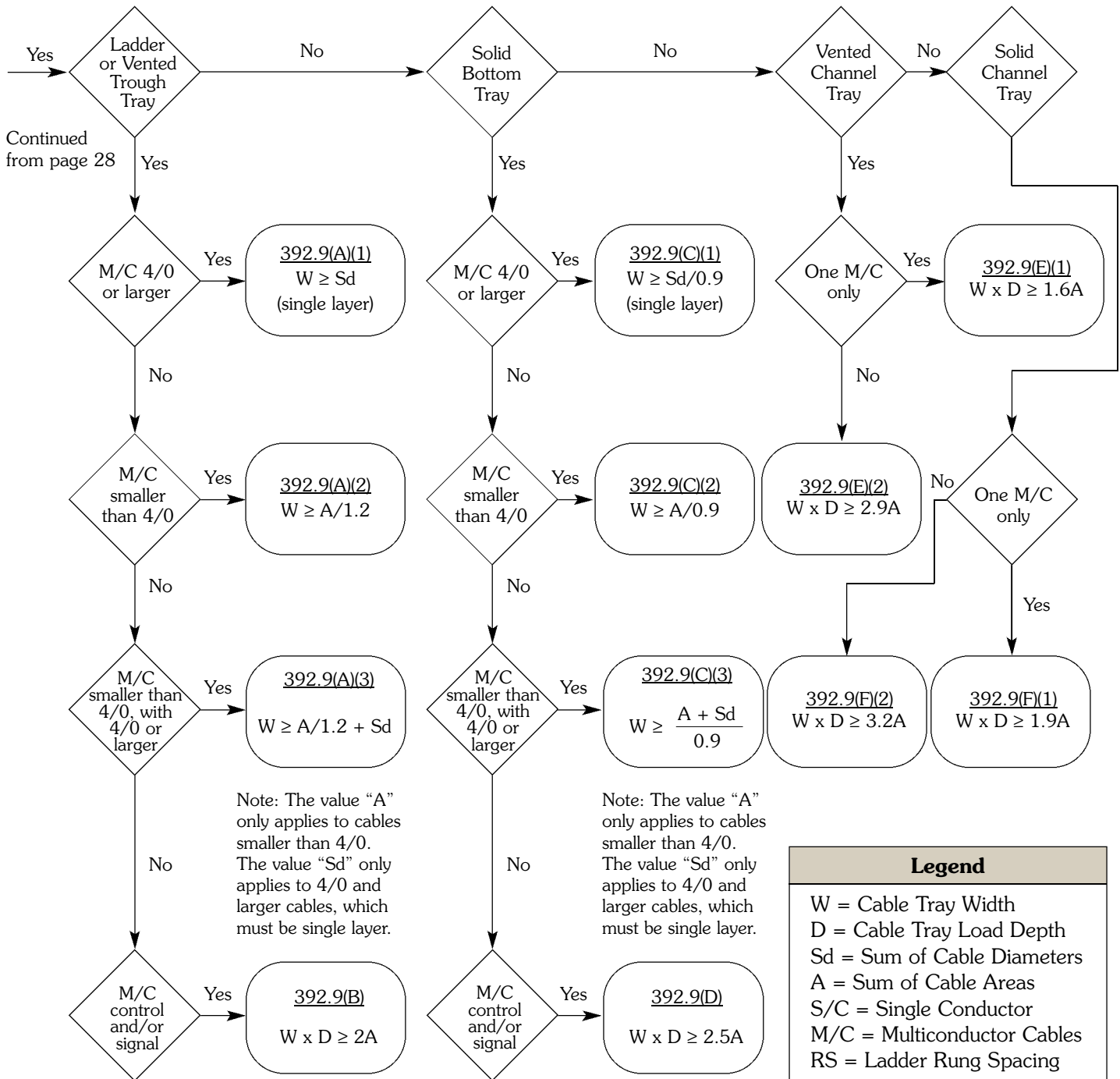
Cable Tray Selection - Width and Available Loading Depth

Sizing Cable Tray Per 2002 NEC 392



Cable Tray Selection - Width and Available Loading Depth

Note: See appendix on page A-18 for additional information regarding cable ampacity and hazardous (classified) location requirements which might effect the cable tray sizing flow chart.



Legend	
W	= Cable Tray Width
D	= Cable Tray Load Depth
Sd	= Sum of Cable Diameters
A	= Sum of Cable Areas
S/C	= Single Conductor
M/C	= Multiconductor Cables
RS	= Ladder Rung Spacing

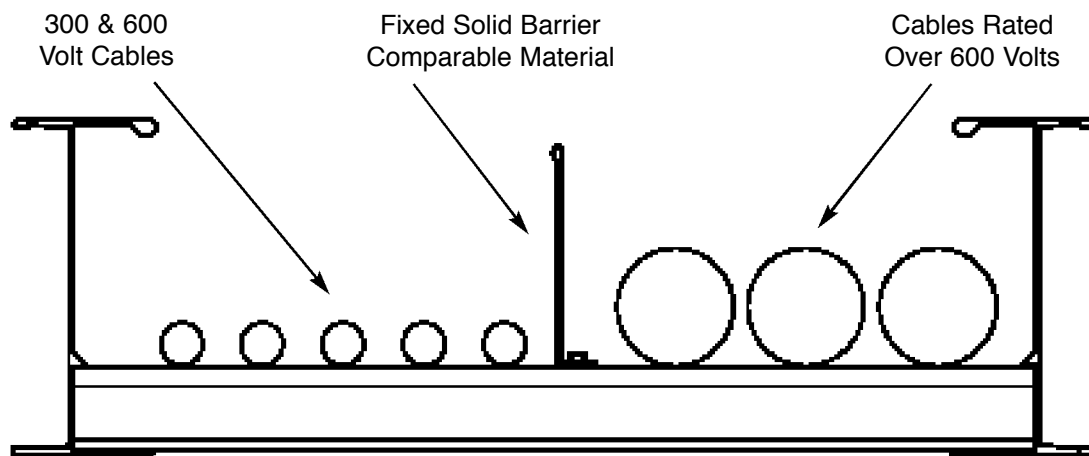
Cable Tray Selection

Cable Tray Selection-Width and Available Loading Depth

Barrier Requirements

Barrier strips are used to separate cable systems, such as when cables above and below 600 volts per NEC 392.6(F) are installed in the same cable tray. However, when MC type cables rated over 600 volts are installed in the same cable tray with cables rated 600 volts or less, no barriers are required. The barriers should be made of the same material type as the cable tray.

When ordering the barrier, the height must match the *loading depth* of the cable tray into which it is being installed.



Future Expansion Requirements

One of the many features of cable tray is the ease of adding cables to an existing system. Future expansion should always be considered when selecting a cable tray, and allowance should be made for additional *fill area* and *load capacity*. A minimum of 50% expansion allowance is recommended.

Space Limitations

Any obstacles which could interfere with a cable tray installation should be considered when selecting a cable tray width and height. Adequate clearances should be allowed for installation of supports and for cable accessibility. Note: The overall cable tray dimensions typically exceed the nominal tray width and loading depth.