extend to the top of the pedestal and then to hang downward to approximately 15 centimeters (cm) (6 inches (in.)) above the baseplate.

(ii) Caution shall be exercised to avoid damaging the conductor insulation when cutting through the cable shield and removing the shield. Sharp edges and burrs shall be removed from the cut end of the shield.

(4) Shield bonding and grounding. For personnel safety, the shields of the cables to be spliced shall be bonded together and grounded before splicing activities are started. (See paragraphs (g)(2), and (g)(5)(i) through (g)(5)(iii) of this section for final bonding and grounding provisions.)

(5) *Binder group identification.* (i) Color coded plastic tie wraps shall be placed loosely around each binder group of cables before splicing operations are attempted. The tie wraps shall be installed as near the cable sheath as practicable and shall conform to the same color designations as the binder ribbons. Twisted wire pigtails shall not be used to identify binder groups due to potential transmission degradation.

(ii) The standard insulation color code used to identify individual cable pairs within 25-pair binder groups shall be as shown in Table 1:

TABLE	1.—CABLE PAIR IDENTIFICATION
	WITHIN BINDER GROUPS

Pair No	Color	
Fail NO.	Tip	Ring
1  2    3  4    5  6    7  8    9  10    10  11    12  13    13  14    15  16    17  18    19  20    21  22    23  24    25	White       White       White       White       White       White       Red       Red       Black       Black       Black       Black       Yellow       Yellow       Yellow       Yolet       Violet	Blue. Orange. Green. Brown. Slate. Blue. Orange. Green. Brown. Slate. Blue. Orange. Green. Brown. Slate. Blue. Orange. Green. Brown. Slate. Blue. Orange. Green. Brown. Slate. Blue.

(iii) The standard binder ribbon color code used to designate 25-pair binder groups within 600-pair super units shall be as shown in Table 2:

ABLE 2.—CABLE BINDER	GROUP
IDENTIFICATION	

Group No.	Color of bindings	Group pair count	
1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10    11    12    13    14    15    16    17    18    19    20    21    22    23    24	White-Blue White-Orange White-Green White-Slate Red-Blue Red-Orange Red-Green Black-Blue Black-Blue Black-Crange Black-Green Black-Slate Black-Slate Yellow-Blue Yellow-Brown Yellow-Brown Yellow-Brown Yellow-Slate Violet-Orange Violet-Orange Violet-Brown	1-25 26-50 51-75 76-100 101-125 126-150 151-175 176-200 201-225 226-250 251-275 276-300 301-325 326-350 351-375 376-400 401-425 426-450 451-475 476-500 501-525 526-550 551-576	

(iv) Super-unit binder groups shall be identified in accordance with Table 3:

TABLE 3.—SUPER-UNIT BINDER COLORS

Pair numbers	Binder color
1-600    601-1200    1201-1800    1801-2400    2401-3000    3001-3600    3601-4200    4201-4800    4801-5400    5401-6000	White. Red. Black. Yellow. Violet. Blue. Orange. Green. Brown. Slate.

(v) Service pairs in screened cables shall be identified in accordance with Table 4:

TABLE 4.—	-SCREENED	CABLE	SERVICE
Р	air Identifi	CATION	

Service pair No.    Color      Tip    Ring      1    White    Red.      2    White    Black.      3    White    Yellow.      4    White    Violet.      5    Red    Black.      6    Red    Yellow.      7    Red    Violet.      8    Black    Yellow.      9    Black    Violet.				
Tip    Ring      1    White    Red.      2    White    Black.      3    White    Vellow.      4    White    Violet.      5    Red    Black.      6    Red    Yellow.      7    Red    Violet.      8    Black    Yellow.      9    Black    Violet.		Sonvice pair No	Color	
1    White    Red.      2    White    Black.      3    White    Yellow.      4    White    Violet.      5    Red    Black.      6    Red    Black.      7    Red    Violet.      8    Black    Yellow.      9    Black    Violet.		Service pair No.	Tip	Ring
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	······	White White White Red Red Black Black	Red. Black. Yellow. Violet. Black. Yellow. Violet. Yellow. Violet.

(6) *Cleaning conductors*. It is not necessary to remove the filling compound from cable conductors before

splicing. However, it is permissible to wipe individual conductors with clean paper towels or clean cloth rags. No cleaning chemicals, etc., shall be used. Caution shall be exercised to maintain individual cable pair and binder group identity. Binder group identity shall be maintained by using color coded plastic tie wraps. Individual pair identification shall be maintained by carefully twisting together the two conductors of each pair.

(7) Expanded plastic insulated conductor (PIC) precautions. Solid PIC and expanded (foam or foam skin) PIC are spliced in the same manner, using the same tools and materials and, in general, should be treated the same. However, the insulation on expanded PIC is much more fragile than solid PIC. Twisting or forming expanded PIC into extremely compact splice bundles and applying excessive amounts of tension when tightening tie wraps causes shiners and, thus shall be avoided.

(8) *Splice connectors.* (i) Only RUS accepted filled splice connectors shall be used on outside plant projects financed by RUS.

(ii) Specialized connectors are available for splicing operations such as butt splices, in line splices, bridge taps, clearing and capping, and multiple pair splicing operations. The splice connector manufacturer's recommendations shall be followed concerning connector selection and use.

(iii) Caution shall be exercised to maintain conductor and pair association both during and after splicing operations.

(iv) Splicing operations that involve pairs containing working services shall utilize splice connectors that permit splicing without the interruption of service.

(9) *Piecing out conductors.* Conductors may be pieced-out to provide additional slack or to repair damaged conductors. However, the conductors shall be pieced-out with conductors having the same gauge and type and color of insulation. The conductors used for piecing-out shall be from cables having RUS acceptance.

(10) *Splice organization*. Spliced pair bundles shall be arranged in firm layups with minimum conductor tension in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(11) *Binder tape.* Perforated nonhygroscopic and nonwicking binder tape should be applied to splices housed in filled splice cases. The binder tape allows the flow of filling compound while holding the splice bundles near the center of the splice case to allow adequate coverage of filling compound.