Device, Cable, and Panel Labeling scheme.

> V2 of the Device, Cable, and Panel Labeling scheme. It keeps the V1 content and makes the formats consistent. Items marked **PROPOSAL** are new rules that need your decision. Items marked **UNTESTED** have not been checked on a real printer or site. Items marked **FIELD** are how I actually label on jobs (first example: 919 Stanford, October 2026). Where FIELD and a proposal disagree, FIELD wins.

Scope

How to name and label sites, rooms, panels, patch panels, devices, and cables in my installations. Based loosely on ANSI/TIA-606 (see "Relation to TIA-606" below). Device naming (firewalls, switches, cameras, access control) is my own convention, not part of 606.

General rules

Rule	Detail
Characters	Uppercase letters, digits, `-` and `.`. No `&`, no `/`. Lowercase is used only for the suffix letter (see below). IDs have no spaces. FIELD: location lines on a label may use spaces (`GARAGE RACK01`).
Patch panel port	FIELD: `P` + panel number, dash, port. Example: `P1-16` = patch panel 1, port 16. This dash is part of the port ID, not a field separator.
`-` (dash)	Separates fields: site, then room or device, then patch panel or role. Example: `SASC-IDF.1.01-P6-12`
`.` (dot)	Separates numbers inside one field: floor, door or panel number, port. Example: `IDF.1.01` = IDF, floor 1, door 01. `SW01.49` = switch 01, port 49.
Suffix letter	Lowercase `a`, `b`, ... for a second item at the same spot, or the legs of a split cable. Example: `SASC-IDF.1.01b`, `P6-12a`.
Padding	PROPOSAL. Floor: 1 character. Door, panel, device number, port: 2 digits (`01`). Cable serial numbers: 3 digits (`001`).
Floors	PROPOSAL. `1` = ground or entry floor, `2`, `3` ... above. `B` = basement (`B`, then `C` for a second basement level).

Rule	Detail
Site prefix	Required on room, panel, and device labels. May be left off cable labels when both ends are in the same site (saves label space).
Same label both ends	Every cable gets the same label at both ends. A cable label must use the exact device and port names on this page.

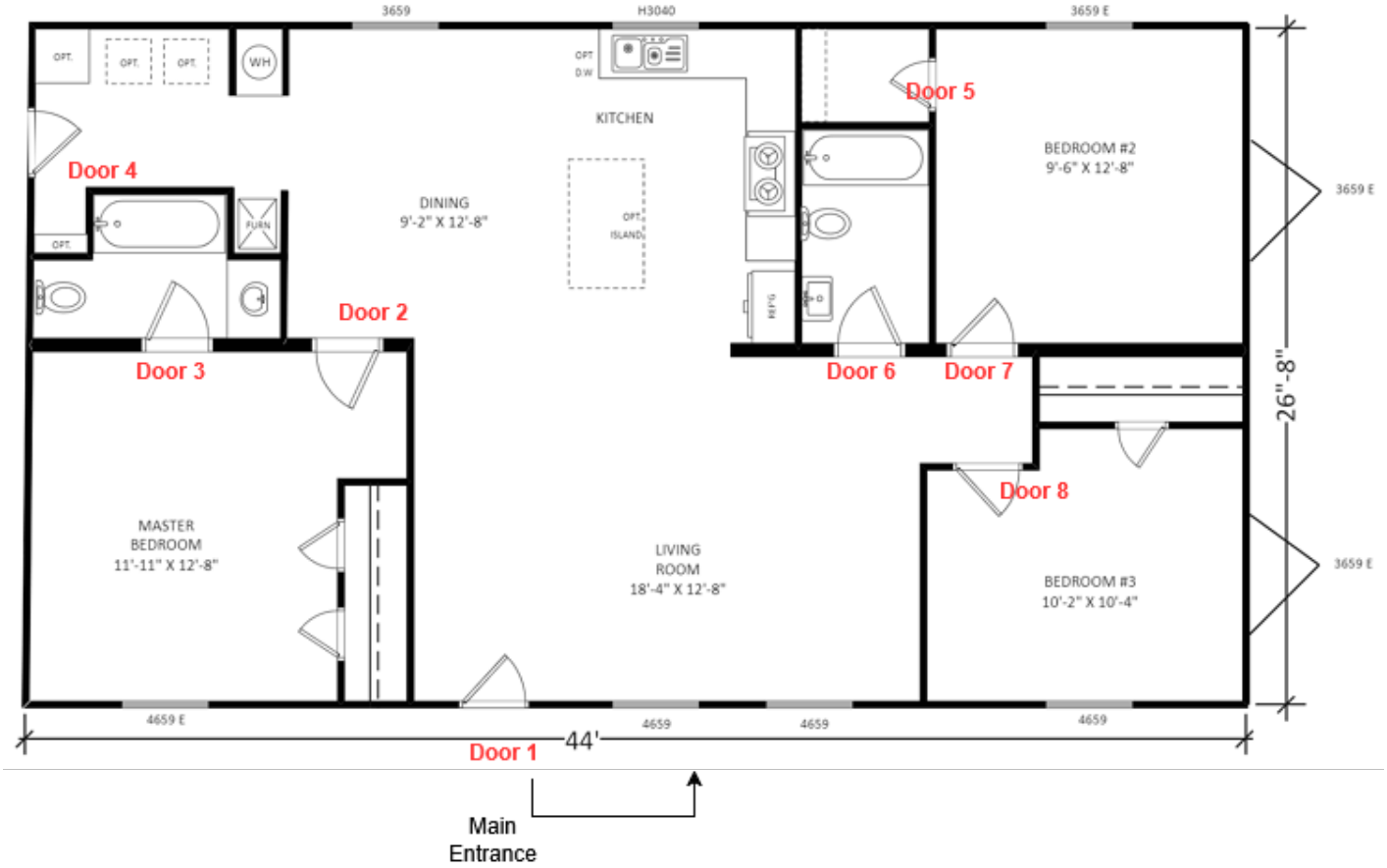
Site codes

Short code per site: letters, or the street number for a building (`919` = 919 Stanford). Fill in the table as sites are added.

Code	Site	Notes
`919`	919 Stanford	Multi-unit residential. See "Multi-unit residential" below.
`SASC`	(fill in)	
`MHF`	Wilson (fill in)	
`925`	(fill in)	Street number, like 919?

Rooms, panels, and doors

> Doors and panels are numbered clockwise, starting at the Main Entry. PROPOSAL: on other floors, start at the stair or elevator nearest the Main Entry.



Type	Format	Example	Second one
Main Point of Entry (MPOE)	`SITE-MPOE.floor.door`	`SASC-MPOE.1.06`	N/A. One MPOE per site.
Intermediate Distribution Frame (IDF)	`SITE-IDF.floor.door`	`SASC-IDF.1.01`	`SASC-IDF.1.01b` (second IDF behind the same door)
Media cabinet / panel	`SITE-PNL.floor.number`	`SASC-PNL.2.01`	`SASC-PNL.2.02`
Facility door	`SITE-DR.floor.door`	`SASC-DR.1.01`	`SASC-DR.1.02`
Patch panel (inside a room or cabinet)	`P` + number, top to bottom	`P6`	`P7`
Patch panel port	`P#-port`	`P6-12`	`P6-12a`, `P6-12b` (split cable)
Port, full name	`SITE-ROOM-P#-port`	`SASC-IDF.1.01-P6-12`	

The patch panel face only needs the short form (`P6-12`), because the room is already known. Use the full name in records and on riser cables.

Notes

> MPOE: where the carrier's service enters the building (the demarc). In houses it is often under the stairs or in the basement. In large buildings, riser cables run from the MPOE (or the main equipment room) up to the IDFs on other floors.

>

> IDF: the room or rack on each floor that holds the switches for that floor. It connects back to the MPOE with riser cables.

Device labels

Network and server devices

Type	Format	Example	Second one
ISP handoff (modem / ONT)	`SITE-ISP##`	`MHF-ISP01`	`MHF-ISP02`. Put the carrier name (e.g. ATT) in the records, not the label.
Firewall / router	`SITE-FW##`	`SASC-FW01`	`SASC-FW02` (HA pair: 01 = primary)
Aggregation / distribution switch	`SITE-AGG##`	`SASC-AGG01`	`SASC-AGG02`
Access switch	`SITE-SW##`	`SASC-SW01`	`SASC-SW02`
Wireless access point	`SITE-AP##`	`SASC-AP01`	PROPOSAL (new in V2)
Server / host	`SITE-SRV##`	`SASC-SRV01`	PROPOSAL (new in V2)
NAS	`SITE-NAS##`	`SASC-NAS01`	PROPOSAL (new in V2)
UPS / PDU	`SITE-UPS##`, `SITE-PDU##`	`SASC-UPS01`	PROPOSAL (new in V2)

Cameras

Type	Format	Example	Second one
Internal camera	`SITE-INT-What`	`SASC-INT-CashReg`	`SASC-INT-CashReg02`
External camera	`SITE-EXT-What`	`SASC-EXT-DrivewayN`	`SASC-EXT-DrivewayS`

Cameras are named for what they look at. INT and EXT show access level at a glance: tenants and employees can usually see external cameras, but access to internal cameras is tightly controlled. The camera name is the exception to the uppercase rule, so it stays readable.

Access control (physical hardware in panels or on walls)

Type	Format	Example	Second one
Door access hub	`SITE-CTL.floor.door`	`SASC-CTL.1.05`	`SASC-CTL.1.05b`
Reader-Flex (no hub)	`SITE-CTL.floor.door`	`SASC-CTL.1.01`	`SASC-CTL.1.01b`
Badge reader	`(controller)-RDR`	`SASC-CTL.1.05-RDR`	`SASC-CTL.1.05-RDRb` (second reader, e.g. exit side)
Door intercom	`(controller)-INT`	`SASC-CTL.1.05-INT`	

The door number in a CTL label is the same as in the door's own label (`SASC-DR.1.05` uses `SASC-CTL.1.05`).

Cable labels

Every cable gets the same wrap label at both ends. Upstream (the end closer to the ISP / core) always comes before downstream.

Structured cable runs (in-wall: rack to unit, rack to outlet, riser)

FIELD. Three-line label:

Line	Content	Example
1 (large)	Cable ID = the patch panel port at the upstream end	`P1-16`
2	Upstream location (room or rack)	`GARAGE RACK01`
3	Downstream location (unit or room, and position)	`APT-G.02`

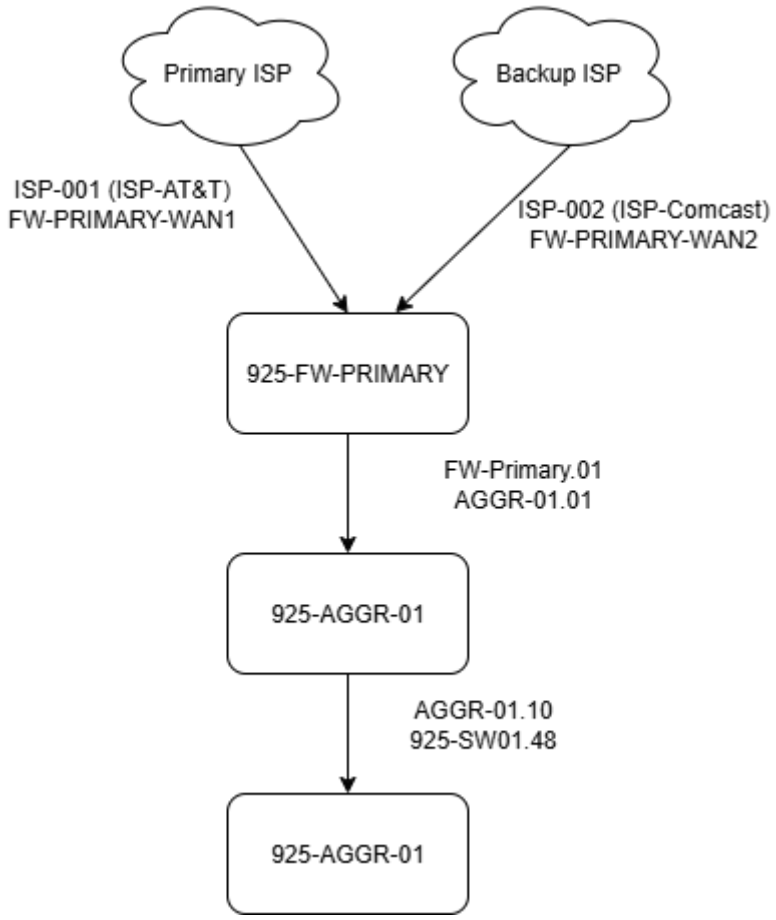


919 Stanford: the cable from garage rack 01, patch panel 1, port 16 to position 02 in the Apartment G media panel.

> The bottom line of this label is wrong: it says `UNIT J.02`, but the cable goes to Apartment G. Use the layout, not the text. It should read `APT-G.02`.

Patch cords between devices

Two-line label. Line 1 = upstream device and port, line 2 = downstream device and port, using the device names on this page plus `.port`.



> The diagram above is from V1 and may still show V1 formats.

> This is different from TIA-606, where the near end is printed first so the order flips at each end. Here the order is always upstream first, so the label reads the same everywhere.

Cable	Line 1 (upstream)	Line 2 (downstream)	Notes
ISP to firewall	`ISP01`	`FW01.WAN1`	Second WAN: `ISP02` / `FW01.WAN2`
Firewall to aggregation switch	`FW01.03`	`AGG01.01`	HA: `FW02.03` / `AGG02.01`
Aggregation to access switch	`AGG01.10`	`SW01.49`	Bond / LAG: label each member normally (e.g. `AGG02.12` / `SW01.49` and `AGG02.13` / `SW01.50`). Record the LAG in the docs.
Switch to patch panel (patch cord in rack)	`SW01.12`	`P6-12`	

Cable	Line 1 (upstream)	Line 2 (downstream)	Notes
Patch panel to wall outlet (horizontal)	Three-line label: `P6-12` / `IDF.1.01` / `FL1-WALL`. The outlet faceplate shows `P6-12`.		Split cable: `P6-12a`, `P6-12b`
Riser / backbone (between MPOE, IDFs, panels)	Three-line label: `P1-01` / `MPOE.1.06` / `IDF.2.01`		Add the site prefix if the cable leaves the site.
Building rack to unit media panel	FIELD. Three-line label: `P1-16` / `GARAGE RACK01` / `APT-G.02`		See "Multi-unit residential".
Camera	`IDF.1.01-P3-05` or `SW01.05`	`INT-CashReg`	The bottom line is the camera name.
Access hub to badge reader	`CTL.1.05`	`CTL.1.05-RDR`	Intercom: `CTL.1.05` / `CTL.1.05-INT`
Switch to access hub / Reader-Flex	`SW01.20`	`CTL.1.05`	

> FIELD: the 919 Stanford label fits one large line (`P1-16`) and two small lines of up to 13 characters (`GARAGE RACK01`) on the wrap label, with the clear tail left for laminating. Printed on the 1.5" x 1.0" M7-31-427 stock. Longer lines (more than 13 characters) are UNTESTED.

Service type (from V1)

V1 used a service prefix on patch cables: `NET-001`, `TEL-001`, `COM-001`. In V2 the panel port ID replaces the serial number. PROPOSAL: show the service with cable color (see Relation to TIA-606) or with a third line on the label. See Open questions.

Multi-unit residential

FIELD, from 919 Stanford. A building rack in the garage feeds a media panel (structured media enclosure) in each unit. The ISP's ONT sits in the unit media panel.

Names

Item	Format	Example
Building rack	`(ROOM) RACK##`	`GARAGE RACK01`
Patch panel port in the building rack	`P#-port`	`P1-16`
Apartment (unit)	`APT-` + unit letter	`APT-G`
Position in the unit media panel	`APT-(letter).##`, counted left to right across the top row, then the next row	`APT-G.02`
Room drop (unit panel to a room)	Letter = location, in order `A`, `B`, `C` .... Number = cable at that location: `A1` is the first cable, `A2` the second.	`D1`, `A2`
ISP feed (single-mode fiber from the building rack to the unit ONT)	`ISP-(apartment letter)`, location `GARAGE`	`ISP-G`

Item	Format	Example
Tag on a cable inside the media panel	`APT-(letter) (drop)`	`APT-G D1`
Drop location (small text under or over the ID)	`FL#-MOUNT`	`FL1-WALL`, `FL2-CEILING`, `FL1-DRBL`
Unused jack	`BLANK`	`BLANK`

Unit media panel label strip

Each jack gets an ID (large) and a location (small). Jacks fed from the building rack use the rack port as the ID and `GARAGE` as the location. Red keystones mark the jacks fed from the garage rack.

Row	1	2	3	4	5	6
Top	`P1-15` GARAGE	`P1-16` GARAGE	`A1` FL1-DRBL	`C1` FL2-WALL	`E1` FL3-WALL	BLANK
Bottom	GARAGE `ISP-G`	BLANK	`B1` FL1-WALL	`D1` FL2-CEILING	BLANK	BLANK



`DRBL` = doorbell. `ISP-G` = the ISP single-mode fiber for Apartment G, from the garage. Use `APT-` for units, not `UNIT`. Positions are counted across, so `P1-16` is position `.02` in the photo.

Stacking: put a second cable to the same location directly under the first (`A1` on top, `A2` below), so the cables for one location share a column. In the 919 Stanford photo each location has one cable, so `A1` / `B1` and `C1` / `D1` share columns.

Hardware and labels

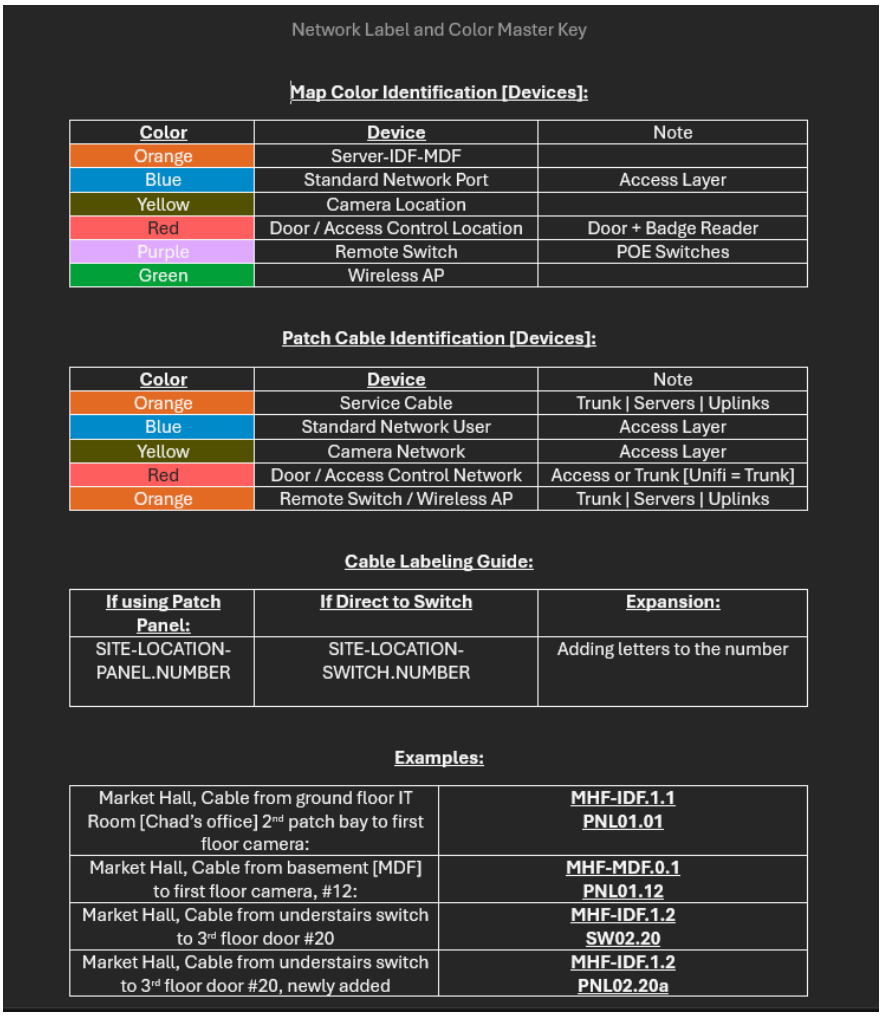
Printer: Brady M710

Label type	Size	Brady part number	Per roll	Price (V1, date unknown)	Ribbon
Basic sticker	1.0" x 1.0"	M7-19-423	250	$43.50	(fill in)
Metallic label	1.0" x 2.0"	M7-20-435	100	$40.00	(fill in)
Cable wrap (self-laminating)	1.5" x 1.0"	M7-31-427	250	$68.00	R4300 ($73.00)



Templates

Site template (editable): NetworkIdentification.docx



Network Label and Color Master Key

Map Color Identification [Devices]:

Color	Device	Note
Orange	Server-IDF-MDF	
Blue	Standard Network Port	Access Layer
Yellow	Camera Location	
Red	Door / Access Control Location	Door + Badge Reader
Purple	Remote Switch	POE Switches
Green	Wireless AP	

Patch Cable Identification [Devices]:

Color	Device	Note
Orange	Service Cable	Trunk | Servers | Uplinks
Blue	Standard Network User	Access Layer
Yellow	Camera Network	Access Layer
Red	Door / Access Control Network	Access or Trunk [Unifi = Trunk]
Orange	Remote Switch / Wireless AP	Trunk | Servers | Uplinks

Cable Labeling Guide:

If using Patch Panel:	If Direct to Switch	Expansion:
SITE-LOCATION-PANEL.NUMBER	SITE-LOCATION-SWITCH.NUMBER	Adding letters to the number

Examples:

Market Hall, Cable from ground floor IT Room [Chad's office] 2nd patch bay to first floor camera:	MHF-IDF.1.1 PNL01.01
Market Hall, Cable from basement [MDF] to first floor camera, #12:	MHF-MDF.0.1 PNL01.12
Market Hall, Cable from understairs switch to 3rd floor door #20	MHF-IDF.1.2 SW02.20
Market Hall, Cable from understairs switch to 3rd floor door #20, newly added	MHF-IDF.1.2 PNL02.20a

Patch bay label templates:

PatchBaySize_12portLevitonKeystone.docx

PatchBaySize_12portSurfacemount.docx

PatchBaySize_24portKeystone.docx

PatchBaySize_24port.docx

PatchBaySize_48port.docx

> These templates were made for V1 formats and may need updating.

Relation to TIA-606

ANSI/TIA-606 is the US cabling administration standard. ISO/IEC 14763-2 is the international equivalent. This scheme borrows its ideas (unique IDs, both ends labeled, records kept) but uses its own formats.

This scheme	TIA-606 term
MPOE	Entrance facility (demarc). Often in the same room as the equipment room / main cross-connect (MDF).

This scheme	TIA-606 term
IDF	Telecommunications room (TR)
Riser cable	Backbone cable
Patch panel to outlet	Horizontal link
Multi-site with site codes	Class 3 (campus) / Class 4 (multi-site)

606 color codes (from memory, not checked against the current revision)

Color	Use
Orange	Demarc / carrier
Green	Network connections (customer side of demarc)
Purple	Common equipment (servers, PBX)
White	First-level backbone
Gray	Second-level backbone
Blue	Horizontal (to the outlet)
Brown	Between buildings
Yellow	Miscellaneous (security, alarms)
Red	Key telephone systems

606-B cable example (kept from V1)

Near end `AG09-35:01/AJ06-35:01`, far end `AJ06-35:01/AG09-35:01`. `AG09` = rack at grid AG09, `-35` = patch panel 35 rack units from the bottom, `:01` = port 1, `/` = separates near end from far end. Newer revisions (606-C, 606-D) exist. I have not checked what changed.

Changes from V1

Item	V1	V2
MPOE	`SASC-MPO.1.6`	`SASC-MPOE.1.06`
IDF second unit	`IDF-1-1a`	`SASC-IDF.1.01b`
Doors	`SASC-01-DR01`	`SASC-DR.1.01`
Firewall on cables	`FW-Primary-WAN1`	`FW01.WAN1` (same name as the device label)
Aggregation switch	`AGG-##` and `AGGR-##`	`AGG##`, with its own device row
Site 925 devices	`925-FW01`	Same format, but see Open questions about the code

Item	V1	V2
Wilson-MHF patch port	`MHF-IDF2.1-P1.1`	`MHF-IDF.2.01-P1-01` (same rule as every site)
Access hub suffix	`1.1A` / `1.05a` mixed	Always lowercase: `1.05b`
Intercom / reader	`-IntCom`, `-Reader`	`-INT`, `-RDR`
Cameras	`INTERNAL-CashReg`	`SASC-INT-CashReg`
Camera cable	`SASC-CAM-1.05`	Port ID / camera name
Wire label order	Two conflicting wordings	Upstream before downstream. In-wall runs: 3 lines (ID / upstream / downstream), from field practice.
Patch panel port	`P6.12`	`P6-12` (field practice)
Bond cables	`-BONDa` / `-BONDb`	Label each member normally. LAG in the records.
New		General rules, site code table, AP / SRV / NAS / UPS / PDU, patch panel naming, 606 mapping

Open questions

- Fill in the site code table. Is `925` a street number, like `919`?
- Agree with the separator, padding, and floor proposals?
- Service type: drop `NET`/`TEL`/`COM`, use cable color, or add a third label line? What did `COM` mean?
- Are MPOE and MDF always the same room in your sites, or do you need an `MDF` room type?
- Do you want rack positions (rack units, as in 606) in the labels, or is `P#` top to bottom enough?
- Riser and outlet labels with lines longer than 13 characters still need a test print.
- Ribbon part numbers for the basic and metallic labels.

Related pages

- V1 of this page, saved as a copy ending in "_old" (link to be added)

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