

Revision of TIA-942 standard likely to recommend certain optical connectors

The popular [TIA-942](#) Telecommunications Infrastructure for Data Centres standard is currently in the early stages of being revised. Per ANSI guidelines, standards must be reaffirmed, withdrawn, or revised every five years. TIA-942 was published in 2005, so its revision cycle is underway. The revised standard will be named TIA-942-A.

In the TIA-942-A some of the changes we can expect to see when 942 becomes 942-A. Specifically, the already-published ISO/IEC 24764 and/or the CENELEC EN 50173-5 data centre standards may have an impact on the development of TIA-942-A. In addition to horizontal cabling lengths, cabling type recommendations, energy efficiency and the fibre-connector types in the standard.

Which specifies no particular connectors, ISO/IEC 24764 specifies the following connectors.

- LC and MPO for multimode fibre at the EO [equipment outlet] and ENI [external network interface]
- LC and MPO for singlemode fibre at the EO
- Angled LC connector for singlemode fibre at the ENI

"TIA will probably *recommend* but not *require* the use of LC and MPO connectors."

The LC connector long ago emerged as the victor in a "[connector battle](#)" that TIA ultimately let the market decide, rather than specifying a preferred connector type. The [MPO has enjoyed significant deployment in data centres](#) as the array-style connector can accommodate dense connecting fields and its construction allows for parallel-optic transmission of next-generation applications including [40- and 100-Gbit Ethernet](#).