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(54) Title: ELECTRIC POWER CABLES

(57) Abstract

An electric power cable of the kind having at least one metallic conductor (1), optionally a conductor screen (2) of semiconductive material, and insulation (3) all enclosed in an earth screen comprising wires (5) or narrow tapes and a sheath comprising polymeric material is characterised by a sheath construction comprising a first extruded polymeric layer (8) which encloses the earth screen (5) of the cable without filling the gaps between the components thereof (the wires or strips), a second extruded polymeric layer (12) enclosing the first (8) and between them and bonded to both of them a moisture barrier laminate comprising a metal foil layer (10) coated on each of its major faces with a polymeric material (11) compatible with the material of the extruded layer (8, 12) it contacts. This increases the resistance of the cable to impact, compared with constructions in which a moisture barrier foil layer is applied directly over the screen wires, and allows the cable to be used in applications that hitherto required a metal sheath.

