

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance and Practices

Alert Number: SA11_20

24 September 2020

Subject: Excavating Cables in Preparation for Identification and Jointing

Key Messages

- All cables and conduits detailed in underground plans in the vicinity of the proposed works must be exposed.
- Excavations must be cleared of spoil to a minimum of 200mm around any cable covers, joints, cables or conduits.

Preparing for Cutting, Jointing and/or Termination of cables

It is important when preparing for jointing and termination of new and existing Ausgrid cables, that all cables are accurately identified and prepared.

Prior to Ausgrid Jointers arriving to phase and ID a cable, all cables shown on the cable plans should be excavated and exposed ready for positive identification.

Ausgrid's Network Standard NS130 – Specification for laying underground cables up to and including 11kV, sets out the minimum requirements when excavating cables, conduits and cover strips in preparation for identification and cutting;

NS130 section 8.4

"All cables and conduits detailed in underground plans in the vicinity of the proposed works must be exposed. Excavations must be cleared of spoil to a minimum of 200mm around any cable covers, joints, cables or conduits.

The persons carry out the works shall also observe the requirements of Network Standard NS156 Working Near or Around Underground Cables with regards to the safety aspects of working in close proximity to underground cables.

When cutting cable covers or conduits, appropriate controls must be put in place to avoid creating a hazardous condition through the contact with live cable."

Cutting cables, conduits or cover strips

The latest edition of Ausgrid's Electrical Safety Rules (ESR) 2020/0 provides further direction when cutting cables, conduits or cover strips.

ESR Sections 9.3.5 and 9.9.1

*"To prevent damage to any adjacent buried cables, you must excavate removable soil or backfill to a **minimum radius of 200mm** around any cable, conduit, or cover strip, before cutting it. Additional precautions such as physical barriers may also be required to prevent damage to adjacent cables."*

It is important that all of these controls are put in place prior to any work being performed on Ausgrid cables, and that accurate and current Dial Before you Dig plans and design drawings are accessible onsite at all times during the project

If you have any questions, please contact ASPauthorisations@ausgrid.com.au

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