

Planning Policy Briefing

openreach

Audience: All Planners and Planning managers
Category: Spine (Fibre)

Spine Stepping Down & Removal of the 1500m Rule

Introduction

This briefing is to inform you of a change to the Spine build policy with the introduction of new rules regarding Stepping down cable sizes and the removal of the 1500m rule between the Aggregation Node and 1st Splitter.

The Standard Policy

The Spine network is designed using the "The Ghost Plan" modelling tool and is our "ultimate build" network blueprint of how we should deploy fibre throughout the UK.

Where a Spine is built to reach targeted premises (initial build) the network must be fully designed, dimensioned as per the "Ghost plan". This is documented in:

[NWK/LNK/C212 Fibre – Spine Planning - Policy](#)

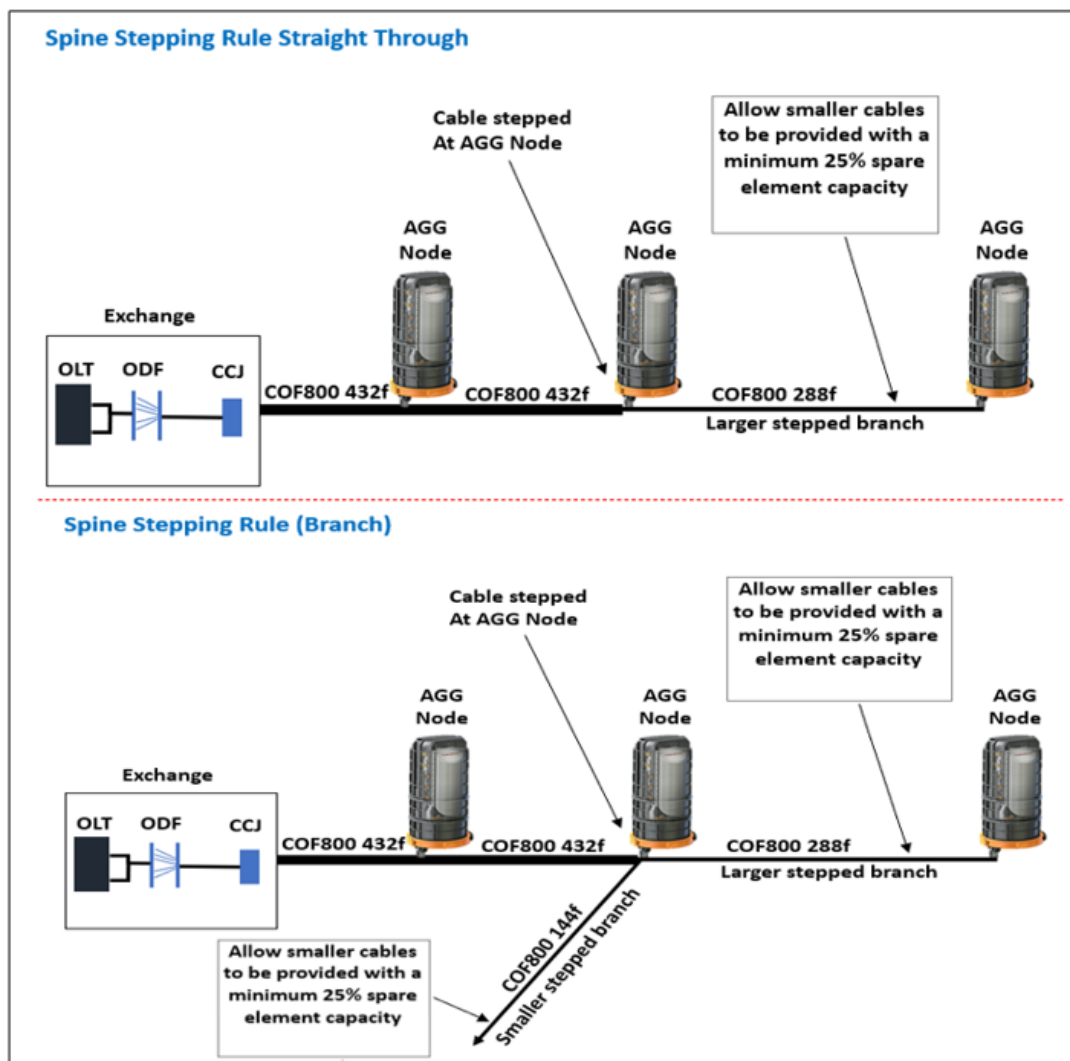
Spine Stepping Down

The Ghost plan will provide a controlled step down in spine cable sizes where straight through only or spur spine cables can be downsized at an AGG Node in the spine to meet reduced fibre demand.

A 'stepped' spine is a step down in cable size. This can be for a single straight through spine (with no branch) or a step down in cable size in two or more cables in differing directions.

This will only be allowed where the stepped cable still provides a minimum 25% spare capacity to cater for unexpected demand.

Spine Step Down Rules



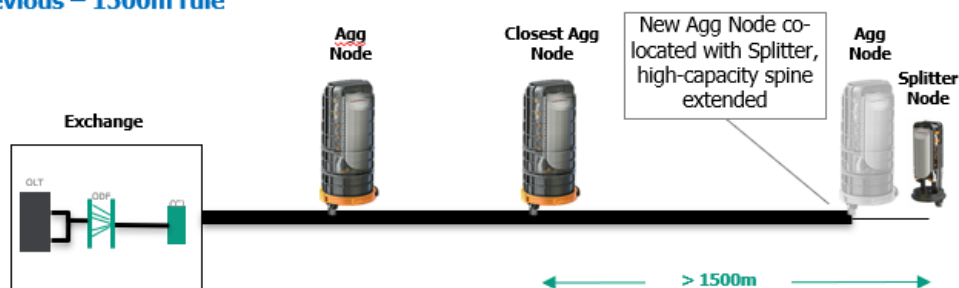
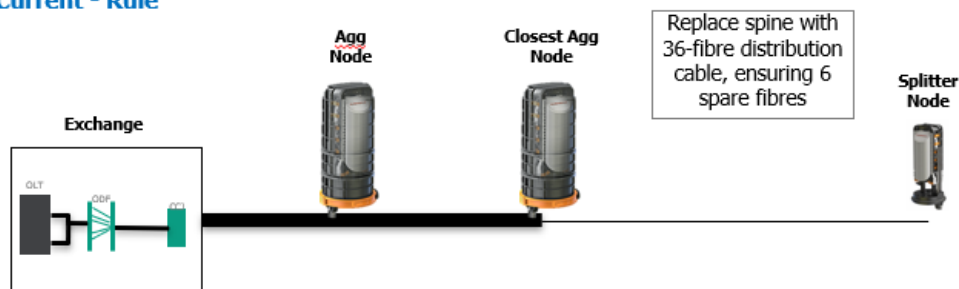
Removal of the 1500m Rule

There is no constraint on the distance between the last AGG Node and the 1st Splitter Node which will allow the spine to be replaced with 36-fibre distribution cable, ensuring 6 spare fibres.

Please be aware that the maximum fill of a 36 fibre distribution cable is 30 fibres.

New Aggregation Distribution Node Placement Rule

Removal of 1500m distance rule between 1st Splitter and distribution AGG Node.

Previous – 1500m rule**Current - Rule****Further Guidance**

The policies in this document will be added to:

[NWK/LNK/C212 Fibre – Spine Planning - Policy](#)

For advice and support please contact:

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