Working on D-poles

Requirements

Working on the Overhead Network

Prior to starting any work on a D Pole, a full On-Site Risk Assessment must be undertaken. It is also necessary to understand the reason why the Pole has been declared “D” as that will determine the level of work permitted. Pole status information can be obtained via SDED’s information, via the Openreach Portal and also via the Openreach Pole Test Helpdesk. Contact numbers are provided on this slide.

A typical test result would be D – DEC, which would indicate that the pole has been made D for Decay. The tables on the next slides detail the various test results and associated levels of work permitted for each category.

18.1 Range of work permitted

Once the D test result has been ascertained for the pole in question, use tables 10, 11 & 12 (next slides) to identify the level of work that is permitted.
The permitted works fall into two main categories.

A. Test and repair work, removal or replacement of existing Blocks / CBT’s / Joint’s and the replacement of Dropwires (Copper or Fibre) and Aerial Cables.
B. Addition of new equipment – Blocks / CBT’s/ Joints and Dropwires (Copper or Fibre), but not Aerial Cable.

Cat A poles are determined as “ Policy D-poles” for PIA
Cat B poles are determined as “ Non-policy D-poles” for PIA

USEFUL CONTACTS
PIA Helpdesk
0800 432 0988
Raising 1024’s
0800 169 5098
Pole Test Helpdesk
0800 085 8262

Policy D-pole Working (Cat A)

Pole label	Test result	Description	Permitted works	Renewal policy
D	COR	Corrosion (Hollow Pole)	(A) Test / Repair + Replacement of existing Blocks, CBT's, Joint's, Dropwires & Aerial Cable	Included in Asset Assurance renewal program. NB: These are known as Policy Poles.
D	DEC	Decay		
D	DAM	Damage		
D	DMO	Damage - move		
D	NOR	No repair possible (Damage)		
D	RPD	Recover pole - defective		
D	*COL	Priority 1&2 (PIDOC)		
D	*DOC	Priority 3 (PIDOC)		
** Dropwire / Aerial Cable replacement work is excluded from permissions for COL & DOC (PIDOC) Poles. However, other Cat (A) type work is permitted.*				

Table 10

Pole label	Test result	Description	Permitted works	Renewal policy
D	UNS	Unstable	(A) Test / Repair + Replacement of existing Blocks, CBT's, Joint's, Dropwires & Aerial Cable	Non AAP Policy Poles. Driving program to fund pole renewal (if required).

Table 11

18.2.1 Cat A - Test, Repair & Replacement work

In cases where the D test result indicates that Test, Repair and Dropwire / Aerial cable replacement work is possible, the work may be undertaken, subject to the following mandatory conditions:

* Site specific risk assessment has not identified any circumstances, which may make work unsafe
* For work involving replacement of a Dropwire or Aerial Cable - A Visual, Hammer and Probe test does not indicate that Pole has become in danger of collapse.
* The pole is only accessed by MEWP or Scaffold. Under no circumstances should a ladder be placed against it
* Caution is taken to ensure that the pole is not hit or jarred by the MEWP
* No removal of wires that appear to be providing critical support to the Pole
* **Important** - Any Aerial cable being recovered as part of replacement work, is de-tensioned slowly, not bolt cropped!
* Renewal of Aerial Cable is like for like only (i.e. Lightweight for Lightweight)
* Any Aerial cable which is replaced, is recovered immediately, not left in place (No significant permanent change of loading introduced)

Non Policy D-Pole Working (Cat B)

<table>
<tr><th>Pole label</th><th>Test result</th><th>Description</th><th>Permitted works</th><th>Renewal policy</th></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>UTT</td><td>Unable to Test</td><td rowspan="5">(A) Test / Repair + Replacement of existing Blocks, CBT’s, Joint’s, Dropwires & Aerial Cable

(B) Provision of new / additional equipment inc Blocks, CBT’s and Dropwires, but not Aerial Cable</td><td rowspan="5">Non AAP Policy Poles.

Driving program to fund pole renewal (if required).</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>UNR</td><td>Pole damaged – Repair possible</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>DEP</td><td>Depth</td></tr>
<tr><td>SD</td><td>SD</td><td>Shallow depth</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>TNC</td><td>Tested not climbed</td></tr>
</table>

Table 12

18.2.2 Cat B - Provision of additional equipment (inc Dropwires)

Where the D test result indicates that it is possible to add equipment. Then in addition to Cat A work, new equipment – Blocks, CBT’s and Dropwires (but not Aerial cables), may also be added, subject to the following mandatory conditions:

* Site specific risk assessment has not identified any damage or other circumstances, which may make work unsafe
* The pole is subject to a successful on the day standard hammer test (no decay identified)
* The pole is only accessed by MEWP or Scaffold. Under no circumstances should a ladder be placed against it
* Caution is taken to ensure that the pole is not hit or jarred by the MEWP
* No removal of wires that appear to be providing critical support to the Pole
* Where, using an angle finder app, the pole is shown to be leaning by more than 10°, no additional wires are to be added
* With any new wires added, the total number of wires on the pole does not exceed those shown in the tables below

Safety

Safety

Policy D poles – <u>UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES</u> should additional Load or attachments to be made on these poles at any time. Check SDEDs data for latest pole status – If in doubt ring Poling Help desk on 0800 085 8262

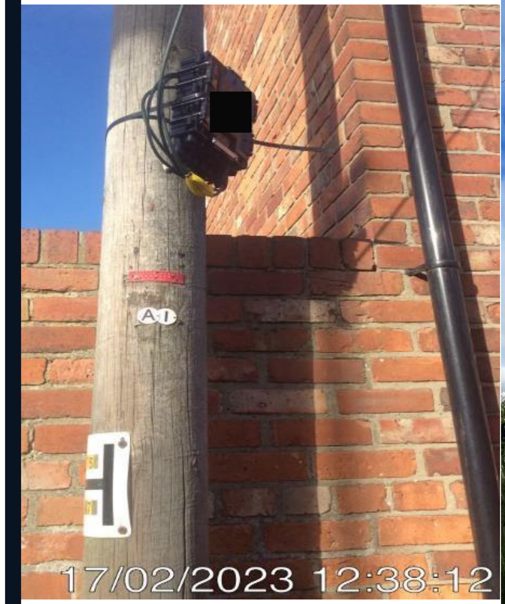
D pole labelling

Pole label	Test result	Description	Permitted works	Renewal policy
D	COR	Corrosion (Hollow Pole)	**(A)** Test / Repair + Replacement of existing Blocks, CBT's, ASN's, Joint's, Dropwires & Aerial Cable	Included in Asset Assurance renewal program. NB: These are known as Policy Poles.
D	DEC	Decay		
D	DAM	Damage		
D	DMO	Damage - move		
D	NOR	No repair possible (Damage)		
D	RPD	Recover pole - defective		
D	*COL	Priority 1&2 (PIDOC)		
D	*DOC	Priority 3 (PIDOC)		

** Dropwire / Aerial Cable replacement work is excluded from permissions for COL & DOC (PIDOC) Poles. However, other Cat (A) type work is permitted.*

Table 10

<u>**More examples this month of PIA CPs attaching to Policy D poles**</u>

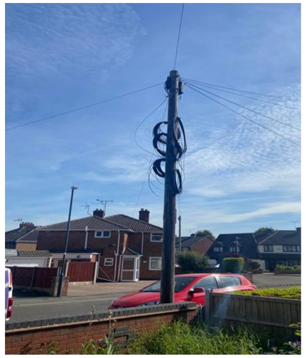


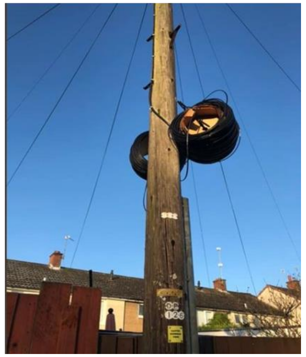
Same pole

Temporary Coils on Poles

Temporary Coiling of Overhead Cables and Equipment - Important reminder -

- Overhead cables/equipment left "temporary" fixed at ground level.
- Multiple coils left suspended from poles.
- **Insulation tape must not used to support heavy coils.**
- Obstruction to safe climbing.
- Safety issue for the public.
- **Draft CP08 covers correct policy to be used link** available here
- **Industry Brief** https://www.internal.openreach.co.uk/cpportal/updates/briefings/physical-infrastructure-access/pia01622



21.2 Temporary Coils on Poles

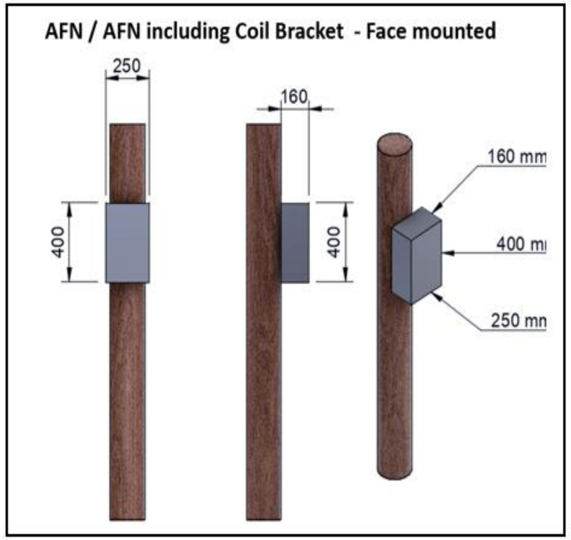
Temporary coils of Cable may be attached to wooden Poles, subject to the following conditions:

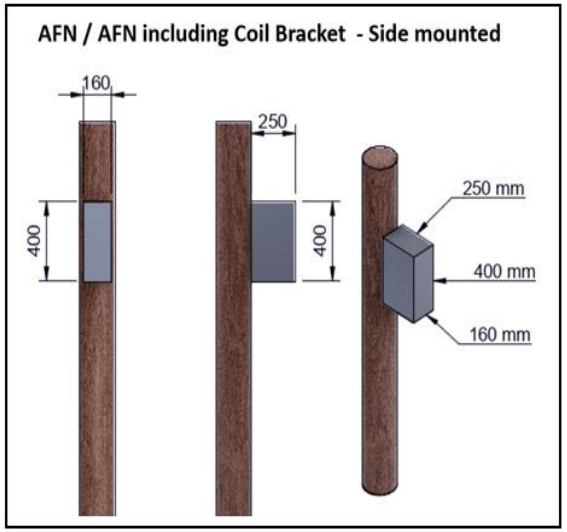
- **Coils must not be attached to a Category "A" D Pole.**
- Span lengths must be completed up to the closest point before requirement to temporary coil.
- All cables between a permanently fixed CBT and temporary coil must be fixed
- Cable drums, boxes of cable or other packaged cable must not be hung from a pole.
- Safe access to the ladder placement area and climbing steps must be maintained.
- Temporary coils are only permitted for a maximum of 45 calendar days from install date, after which the build must be made permanent, or the coil removed.
- An Identifying label must be attached by the CP which clearly identifies the NOI ref, the date of install and the CP name.
- Coils must only be positioned in the Lower Envelope of usable space above the capping (See Figure 9 for illustration).
- A maximum of 2 x neatly formed coils may be fitted per pole.
- ASN Equipment can be stored within the coil, as shown in figure 39c below.
- Any cable running down the pole must be attached using the fixing requirements detailed elsewhere in this document (see "Vertical Cable runs on wooden Poles").
- Where the capping is being shared with Openreach cable and the capping is too small, it must be replaced with a suitably sized Openreach approved capping (see "Vertical Cable runs on wooden poles" section)
- All temporary coils, including those where a CBT/ASN Equipment is part of the coil shall be fixed to the pole using the method shown below:
  - Two suitable Straps Cable Fixing (SCF) fitted horizontally around the pole (e.g - SCF 14A).
  - Two suitable Straps Cable Fixing fitted vertically to restrain the cable coil. (e.g - SCF 1A).
  - One suitable Straps Cable Fixing fitted vertically to restrain the equipment.
  - All loose ends to be taped/secured and labelled with a Cable Marker Label

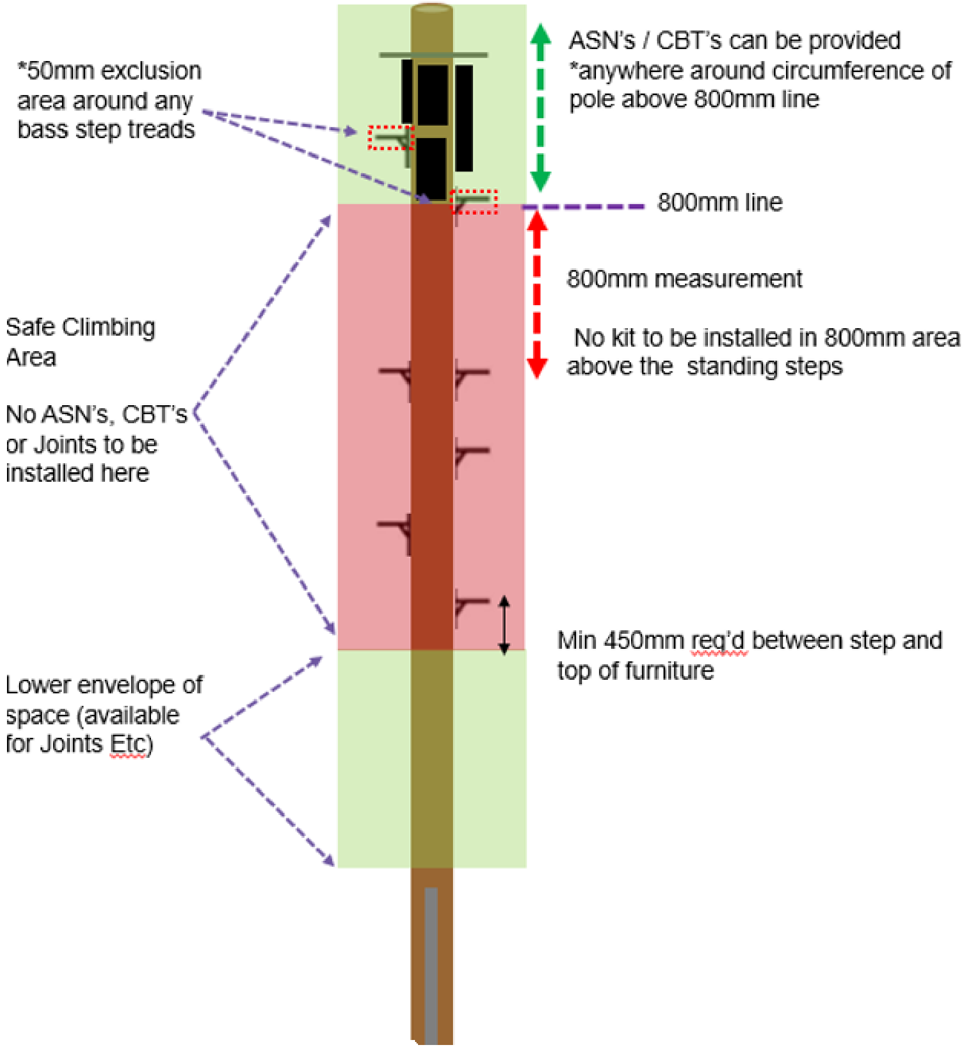

- Where a coil has been stored that is not compliant with this policy it will be deemed unsafe and require urgent rectification. In such cases the CP will be requested to return to site within 24 hours to rectify, otherwise Openreach will remove and dispose of and recover costs from the CP.

Additional Pole Information

Openreach pole – Defined spaces







Openreach Pole Labelling

Overview

D (RED) also a red date label. These poles must NOT be climbed, but may be accessed from a MEWP or Scaffold Tower. No new equipment or cabling to be placed on Policy D poles.

H (ORANGE) – Hazard –The Pole is within 1m of a defined Hazard (spiked railings etc) – MEWP access only, but full range of engineering activities are permitted.

SD (RED) – Pole is planted at shallow depth – MEWP access only, but full range of engineering activities are permitted.

Z (GREEN) - Safe Climb Zone Pole – The Pole is within 1m of a defined hazard, but has been assessed as having a Safe Climb Zone.

C (GREEN) – Shallow Climbable - Pole is marginally shallow, but is OK to climb as long as additional rules are followed.

End