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# ***Fibre Cable & OH Blown Fibre Tube Cutting***

*Tools & PPE for cutting fibre cable & OH blown fibre  
tubing*

## ***About this document ...***

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### **Content approval**

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Issue 6	02-Mar-2020	Matt Harris	New author. COF315 and COF660 added.
Issue 5	10-Dec-2019	Ian Gauntlett	Inclusion of COF800 & COF950. (IG).
Issue 4	31-Oct-2018	ISIS co-ordinator (Openreach Network Engineering)	COF640 included. (IG).
Issue 3	09-Jul-2018	ISIS co-ordinator (Openreach Network Engineering)	COF730 and ADSS cables included. (IG).
Issue 2	16-Jun-2017	ISIS co-ordinator (Openreach Network Engineering)	Updated to reference COF600
Issue 1	14-Mar-2017	ISIS co-ordinator (Openreach Network Engineering)	New document. (IG)

Table of Content

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SAFETY: PPE EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>SAFETY: MMMF STRENGTH MEMBERS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>FIBRE CABLES &amp; OH BFT</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	CABLE CUTTERS	6
4.2	FIBRE CABLES & OH BFT – CORRECT TOOL SELECTION	8

# 1 ***Introduction***

This document details the correct cutter tools to use when cutting fibre cables and overhead blown fibre tubing (BFT).

## 2 ***Safety: PPE Equipment***

Wear suitable PPE:

- Hand protection
- Eye shields
- Overalls with long sleeves and long trousers

*Note:* **Important Note:** See section 3 for additional safety requirement.

## 3 ***Safety: MMMF Strength Members***

The Openreach cable portfolio contains products which have MMMF (man-made mineral fibre) strength members such as;

- Aramid Reinforced Plastic (ARP)
- Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP)
- Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP)
- Glass Yarns
- Aramid Yarns

MMMF strength members where included in a cable's construction, will provide the cable with the required degree of strength and flexibility.

MMMF strength members may cause light dust when cut.

If you are required to cut any of the following cables (Table 1) more than 20 times in a 60 minute period using the BT approved cutting tool, please ensure that a Respirator Valved FFP31 (Item Code: 078011) is worn.

Table 1.

Products Containing MMMF Strength Members
COF600
COF250

COF800
COF200
COF260
COF205
COF640
COF750
COF730
COF202
COF950
COF315
COF280
COF290
COF255
COF256
COF101
COF100
COF150

## **4      *Fibre Cables & OH BFT***

### **4.1      Cable Cutters**

There are two Openreach approved tools for cutting fibre cables and overhead BFT.

The selection of these tools is based on the strength member material, the size of the strength member(s) and the overall diameter of the cable and BFT.

Section 4.2 identifies the cable types that are applicable to these tools.

#### **4.1.1      Cutter Cable Hand 5A**

Cutter Cable Hand 5A - Item Code: 127451



The current Cutter Cable Hand 5A



A previous version of Cutter Cable Hand 5A – this tool can still be used.

Cutter Cable Hand 5A shall be used for cutting cables that contain large diameter metallic strength members and/or large diameter Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) strength members.

#### **4.1.2 Nipper Diagonal Cutting 160mm**

Nipper Diagonal Cutting 160mm - Item Code: 127405



Nipper Diagonal Cutting 160mm

Nipper Diagonal Cutting 160mm shall be used for cutting cables and OH blown fibre tubing that contain small diameter metallic strength members and/or small diameter GRP strength members, Aramid Polymer (e.g. Kevlar).

## 4.2 Fibre Cables & OH BFT – Correct Tool Selection

This section details the correct cutting tool to use for the cable to be cut.

*Note:* COF is the abbreviation for Cable Optical Fibre.

Cable Cutter	Strength Member Detail	Applicable Cable Type
<b>Cutter Cable Hand 5A</b>	Large Diameter Metallic & Large Diameter GRP	COF800, COF950, COF200, COF201, COF202, COF204, COF205, COF24, COF25, COF26, COF27, COF28, COF29 COF35, COF209, COF640, COF660 COF730. Large diameter ADSS cables All legacy multi-fibre cables.
<b>Nippers diagonal 160mm</b>	Aramid Polymer, Small Diameter Metallic and GRP	COF101, COF100, COF150, COF8001, COF8002, COF207, COF208, COF211, COF212, COF215 (36 Fibre Ultra-Light Weight OH



		Cable),COF250, COF260, COF280,COF290, COF315, COF600, COF750, COF950, Fibre Drop Cable, Fibre Drop Tube, Fibre Drop Tube / Copper Hybrid Cable, Hydra Cable, FTTP CSP to ONT 1 Fibre cable, small diameter ADSS Cables. All legacy single-fibre and multi-fibre internal cables.
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