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ISIS Practice
For Openreach People and our Partners

AEI/AEC/B286

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Dealing with Bleeding – Wet Poles

Bleeding Wet Poles

About this document ...

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Content approval

This is the Issue 5 of this document.
The information contained in this document was approved on 01-Oct-2021 by Glen Barford, Overhead Network Policy and Standards Specialist

Version History

Version No.	Date	Author	Comments
Issue 5	01-Oct-2021	Wesley Grantham	Addition of Wet Pole Scale in Section 4
Issue 4	11-Aug-2021	Wesley Grantham	Amendment to section 4
Issue 3	09-Jun-2021	Wesley Grantham	Change of author
Issue 2	07-Aug-2019	Martin Nottage	Author update no content change
Issue 1	22-Sep-2016	Chief Engineer Documentation Team	(DC) Chief Engineer Documentation Team

Table of Content

1 *Executive Summary:*

This AEC is issued as a reminder of the procedures that need to be followed when Wet Creosoted Poles are encountered.

The key message is that these Poles must not be erected. See section 4 for full details.

Managers should ensure that this AEC is shared with their teams and acted upon.

2 *Status:*

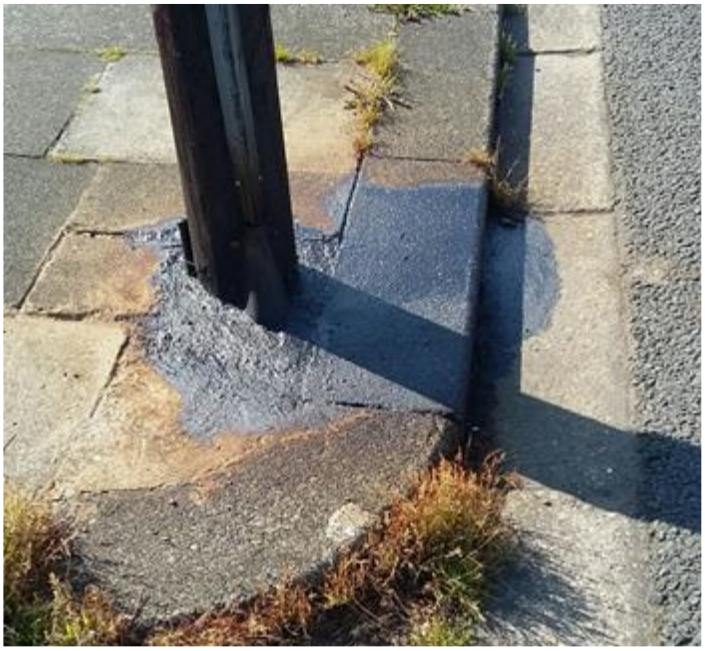
- Safety
- Working Practice
- Quality Standard

3 *Scope:*

Target audience – All Pole erection Teams (Direct Labour and Contract) working on the Openreach and BT Ireland networks.

4 *Detail:*

On occasion Poles can be encountered which are “wet to the touch” with creosote. These are usually very low in number but over the last year, higher than normal numbers of newly erected Poles have been identified as bleeding. These poles can cause injury to people who may come into contact with them without protective equipment and damage to property. They have also resulted in defects being issued by the Local Authorities. See example below.



All BT Poles are seasoned and treated as part of the manufacturing process to reduce the probability of creosote 'bleeding' to a minimum. However, because wood is a natural product, a small percentage of poles will unfortunately still 'bleed'.

To help ensure that instances of Bleeding Poles are kept minimal, the procedures below must be followed by everyone in the supply chain, to minimize the problem.

4.1 Pole Suppliers:

Suppliers must not deliver Poles to BT or Contractor Poles Stacks, which are visibly "Wet". NB: Suppliers have been reminded of this responsibility.

4.2 Operational Teams:

- All deliveries to Pole stacks (DL or Contract) should be supervised, to check the quality of newly arrived Poles.
- Delivery of Bleeding Poles **must not** be accepted from Pole Suppliers.
- Any identified as Bleeding at point of delivery, or whilst sitting on the stack **must** be returned / replaced. See returns forms below.


ScanPole Pole collection request for


C&G - Pole Collection Request Form (3).pdf

- Bleeding poles **must not** be taken from the stack and **must not** be erected in the network.
- Where an existing pole (regardless of age) is observed to be bleeding, it MUST be reported via A1024 – Defect Category 520 (Leaking Poles).
- Existing Leaking Poles can be protected using Hessian & Batten method**.** For details please see AEI/AEC/B359.

4.3 Wet Pole scale

The BT Specification for Poles describes a scale of Bleeding. Below scale 6, Poles are deemed “Dry” (No issue)

Poles with a Status of 6 to 12 may exhibit different characteristics, but can all be considered as bleeding and should be treated accordingly. See below for a guide:

Scale	Category - Touch test result	Additional comments
6.	**WET** – With signs of residue on Gloves away from knots.	Pole appearance will be Black, Grey Black and shiny, wit bubbles of creosote around knots.
7.	**WET** – With residue/film of Creosote on Gloves	Black, Grey Black, with definite film of creosote but very possibly in small patches or strip-like areas.
8.	**WET** – With Film of Creosote on Gloves	Black, Grey Black. One quarter of circumference from ti thin layer of creosote in patches of thin creosote.
9.	**WET** – With Film of Creosote on Gloves	Black, Grey Black. More than a quarter of the circumfer whole has strips or patches of thin creosote.
10.	**WET** – With Film of Creosote on Gloves	Black, Grey Black. The whole pole has a thin layer of cr surface area.
11.	**WET** – With Film of Creosote on Gloves	Black, Grey Black. The whole pole is covered in either a layer of creosote with the addition of air bubbles.
12.	**WET** – With Film of Creosote on Gloves	Black thick tar-like creosote in strips, patches, etc.

Note: Poles should not be returned purely due to being black, key indicator is touch test result.

5 *Training:*

Training has been considered and is not required.

6 *Quality Standards:*

Existing quality standards apply.

7 *Accreditation:*

Accreditation has been considered and changes are not required.

8 *Quality Checks and Independent Audit:*

N/A

9 *Contract Impact:*

The information in this document is issued to Contractors on the following basis.

Mandatory

10 *Reference Documentation:*

10.1 ISIS Document -

EPT/ANS/A010

10.2 Manufacturer's Instructions:

Considered and no changes are required.

10.3 Quality:

Existing Q Standards apply.

10.4 Accreditation Documents:

Considered and no changes are required.

10.5 FPQ:

Considered and no changes are required.

10.6 Supply Chain:

Considered and no changes are required.

10.7 Communications:

- AEC only

END OF DOCUMENT