

openreach

ISIS directive  
For All people who work on the Openreach fibre  
network

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# ***Optical Fibre - Safety***

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

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### **Content approval**

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# 1 ***Introduction***

This directive refers to safe working practices for all those involved with the installation and maintenance of optical fibre cables and systems. Further information relating to general and job specific guidance can be found in the Health & Safety Handbook.

# 2 ***ISIS SFY/CSP/B039***

Before starting work in operational areas on any optical fibre cable, external joint or fibre system, people must be conversant with ISIS practice SFY/CSP/B039 'Safe Working Practices for Optical Fibre Systems'.

Supervisors must bring these working practices to the attention of people intending to work on optical fibre cables and systems. People intending to work on optical fibre cables must have completed the basic safety training module "Safe Working With Optical Fibres" which is part of the fibre jointing course or they must work under the direct supervision of a trained person.

# 3 ***Optical Fibre Offcuts***

People working on optical fibre cables that are involved in jointing practices must be aware that optical fibre offcuts or waste should be stored in an approved container. Bins Optical Fibre Disposable, item code 007655 must be used to store fibre offcuts whilst carrying out jointing duties.

# 4 ***Waste Disposal***

For scrap lengths of fibre optic cable (ie not individual fibres), use the process described in ISIS RAL/ENV/B011 Waste Guide, under 'Cable - Fibre Optic'. Optical fibre cable is a 'Category 2' waste product and the Waste Guide details the process for BT people to follow regarding the disposal of these waste products.

When a Bins Optical Fibre Disposable becomes full or exhausted it must be disposed of using the process detailed in ISIS RAL/ENV/B011 Waste Guide, under 'Cable - Fibre Optic scrap from jointing'. Optical fibre offcuts or 'sharps' is a 'Category 3' waste product and the Waste Guide details the process for BT people to follow regarding the disposal of these waste products.

## 5 **Generic Risk Assessment**

The Generic Risk Assessment associated with the jointing practices used on optical fibre cables is contained in ISIS directive SFY/GRA/B008 'Jointing Optical Fibre Systems'.

## 6 **References**

Safe working practices for optical fibre systems - ISIS SFY/CSP/B039.

Jointing Optical Fibre Systems Generic Risk Assessment – ISIS SFY/GRA/B008.

Waste Guide - RAL/ENV/B011.

Eye Protection - SFY/CSP/D019.

Hand Protection - SFY/CSP/D019.

Health and Safety Handbook. This can be found on the HR web page at:  
<http://humanresources.intra.bt.com/safety-handbook.htm>

For detailed "Job Specific" information, refer to the Health and Safety Handbook Section 5 at: <http://humanresources.intra.bt.com/safety-handbook/s5specific.htm>

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