

openreach

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For BT Openreach & BT Ireland

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COF250 Self Rodding Fibre Cable

*Self rodding properties of the COF250 Fibre Cable
can be used to attempt to overcome blocked /
congested UG duct.*

About this document ...

Author

The author of this document may be contacted at:

Matt Harris
Fibre and Copper Cable Professional
Openreach (BOI)
Post Point Orion Building
Adastral Park
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
SUFFLK
IP5 3RE

Telephone: 07484357810
Fax:
Email: matthew.harris@openreach.co.uk

Content approval

This is the Issue 3 of this document.

The information contained in this document was approved on 30-Apr-2020
by Kieran Sheahan, Access Components Copper & NGA Specialist

Version History

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Issue 3	30-Apr-2020	Matt Harris	New author and approver.
Issue 2	25-Jun-2018	Chief Engineer Documentation Team	No content change – review date extended
Issue 2	21-Jun-2016	Chief Engineer Documentation Team	Updated to reflect updates to ISIS EPT/COF/D950
Issue 1	24-Mar-2016	Chief Engineer Documentation Team	Issue of AEC

Table of Content

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:	5
2	STATUS:	5
3	SCOPE:	5
4	DETAIL:	5
4.1	CABLE DETAILS:	6
4.2	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	6
5	TRAINING:	6
6	QUALITY STANDARDS:	6
7	ACCREDITATION:	7
8	QUALITY CHECKS AND INDEPENDENT AUDIT:	7
9	PLANNING POLICY:	7
10	CONTRACT IMPACT:	7
11	REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION:	7
11.1	ISIS:	7
11.2	MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS:	7
11.3	E- ASSISTANT:	7
11.4	QUALITY:	7
11.5	ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS:	8
11.6	FPQ:	8
11.7	SUPPLY CHAIN:	8
11.8	COMMUNICATIONS:	8

1 ***Executive Summary:***

This AEC provides information on a new fibre cable (COF250) for underground (UG) provision. This cable has self rodding properties and can be used for attempting to overcome blocked / congested UG duct difficulties instead of raising an A55.

2 ***Status:***

- Working Practice
- New Component

3 ***Scope:***

The target audience is for all people working on the Openreach Fibre Network, and Northern Ireland.

4 ***Detail:***

When installing UG fibre cabling and duct is found to be blocked / congested and cabling cannot be completed, an A55 is raised for a civils resolution to the problem.

But now a new small compact 12 fibre cable (COF250) that has self rodding properties has been made available for use when blocked / congested ducts are encountered.

For instances where a cable of 12 fibres will meet network requirements and when a duct blockage / congestion is identified, an installation using COF250 by rodding into the duct must be made in the first instance. If this cabling option is not successful then an A55 should be raised.

The COF250 is currently supplied in 305 metre lengths and is delivered in cardboard data cable type boxes. The purpose of supplying the cable in a box format, is to minimize the amount of cabling equipment required when installing the cable from inside an End Users (EU) premises to the external network, and equally when installing in external locations.

It should be noted that whilst the cable has the formal title of COF250, it is also known as “slippery fish” for its ability to “slip” past obstructions in UG ducts.

4.1 Cable Details:

Item code: 087333

Item description: Cable Optical Fibre 250 12 Fibre Small Format Self Roddable Cable.

The photo below shows the COF250 cable.



4.2 Additional information

A grip is also available for installing this cable once a congested duct section has been rodded past and the cable needs to be extended onto another location by traditional pulling practice.

Item code: 087348

Item description: Grip Cable Single Eye Closed 6mm.

A stripping tool for removing the COF250 sheath is also available.

Item code: 087376

Item description: Cable Optical Fibre 250 Small Format Self Roddable Cable Stripping Tool.

5 *Training:*

The Training Team has been made aware and this cable will be built in future training events for the engineers.

6 *Quality Standards:*

Quality standards have been considered and changes are not required.

7 *Accreditation:*

Accreditation has been considered and changes are not required.

8 *Quality Checks and Independent Audit:*

Included here: QPW checking and IA checks have been considered and changes are not required.

9 *Planning Policy:*

Planning Policy team are aware of this new cable.

10 *Contract Impact:*

No impact on contractors as cable is being issued for DL installation.

11 *Reference Documentation:*

11.1 *ISIS:*

ISIS EPT/COF/D950 originally covered installing COF250 cable into Generic Joint 3A, Node Joint 4A but has now been updated to cover installations into Universal Node, Extra Large Node, Large Node, Medium Node, and Small Node.

ISIS EPT/COF/D950 also covers COF250 cable stripping practice.

11.2 *Manufacturer's Instructions:*

Not applicable.

11.3 *E- Assistant:*

Not applicable.

11.4 *Quality:*

Not applicable.

11.5 Accreditation Documents:

Not applicable.

11.6 FPQ:

Not applicable.

11.7 Supply Chain:

Are fully aware of the new COF250 cable.

11.8 Communications:

- FEN
- Briefing Presentation(s)
- Video material produced by BCD:
<https://openreach.office.bt.com/sites/BCDcoach/SitePages/fibrevideos.asp>
[x](#)

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