ACCESSING OVERHEAD PIA ASSETS

MGroupServices
Telecom Division

METHODOLOGY

Note: Persons engaging in works on the overhead network must hold the correct accreditations: S8 PIA Cable Installation Overhead. In addition, they must ensure works are completed in accordance with client specifications.

1. Before accessing Openreach assets, ensure a Notice of intent is in pace and Openreach have been notified that you will be accessing that equipment.
2. An onsite risk assessment must be completed and sites must be set up in a manner that permits safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles using correct signage, barriers and traffic control measures in accordance with NRSWA regulations. Where minimum widths for walkways can't be maintained or traffic flow will be restricted, the appropriate permits must be obtained before attempting the work.
3. A full Openreach pre-climb check should be carried out. This must take into account any low wires crossing the carriageway (any wires less than 5.2m the pole must not be climbed) Suspected low wires must be measured using rods telescopic 7m. The 3m mark on the pole must be visible and understood to assess the depth the pole is set into the ground and in order to take account of sterile poles. The 3m mark may also provide information as to whether the pole is in test date in the absence of an A558 label. Any labels on the pole must be understood and the correct procedures followed, red "D" or "SD" orange "H" green "Z" or "C" If an A558 label is attached to the pole, the information must be understood and used to establish if the pole is within its test date. Any A559 label attached to the pole must be understood and complied with to ensure that maximum pole loading is not exceeded. Any A1024 labels attached to the pole should be examined and the defects reported on them considered (especially low wires). If there is a "Caution Overhead Fibre" label on the pole, care must be taken not to place the ladder against fibre cables or in any other way damage them. The pole must receive a visual check for damage or decay. This visual check must encompass the entire above ground height of the pole and at least three quarters of the circumference. The pole must receive a hammer check just above ground level. A minimum of half of the circumference of the pole must be hammer tested but if there are no obstructions, the entire circumference should be tested. If the pole passes the pre climb checks, a pre climb check label must be attached to the pole between 75mm and 150mm from ground level before the pole is climbed.
4. Pole test probe: A pole test probe must be used if decay of the pole is suspected. The probe should be pressed into the pole using firm hand pressure only. The probe shouldn't be placed into shakes or cracks in the pole. If the probe goes into decay for a depth of 30mm (there is a ridge on the probe at 30mm) Do not climb. If the probe goes into a patch of decay more than 6mm deep and it is more than 25mm across, do not climb. If smaller patches of decay more than 6mm deep can be added up to create a total area more than 25mm across, do not climb.
5. PPE: A correctly fitted climbing harness with work positioning belt and fall arrest lanyard must be worn. This Harness, Belt and Lanyard must be inspected prior to use and be within test date as per LOLER regulations. Hard hat with chin strap or linemans harness fitted must be worn (chinstrap or linemans harness must be worn and fastened). Hi-Vis jacket must be worn Boots must be worn and must have steel

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

- Working at Height
- Weather (Hot, Cold, Slippy, Poor visibility, Windy, Thunder & Lightning)
- Low Wires
- Falling Objects
- Contact with Electrical services
- Live Traffic
- Pedestrians

PLANT, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS

- Gate Guards, Barriers, Signs, Cones
- Level 2 Tetra Ladder System (if trained or ladder tie if not)
- Climbing Harness
- Work positioning pole belt
- Fall arrest Lanyard
- Rods telescopic 7m
- Tool carry belt (must not have hammer loops attached)
- 1Lb hammer, pole probe, pre climb check labels, pins steel No2, permanent black marker

EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- Ensure you are familiar with the point of work emergency arrangements.
- All work vehicle to carry First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher.
- If a fall occurs, self-rescue procedure outlined in BT Accreditation unit (S8).

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Ensure good housekeeping is maintained at all times.
- Ensure a pre-work check is carried out for any environmental risks.
- Spill kits must be available on the vehicle at all times.

PPE REQUIREMENTS

PPE items shown below must be available and worn wear necessary during this task.

COSHH

Refer to COSHH Assessments for further information

- Creosote seepage from Pole during hot weather. Wear gloves where applicable, No shorts, Long sleeves must be worn.

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toe caps, must cover the ankle and have a well-defined heel. Gloves depending on task. Eye protection depending on task.

6. Ladders: Only Openreach type ladders 5B or 7A are suitable for climbing poles. The ladder should be placed against the Pole ensuring that the top rung is just below the first step and is at an angle of 75 degrees or 1: 4. Once the ladder is erected and stable, the ladder must be secured to the Pole using either the Tetra or URAT methods. The ladder must also be secured to the pole at the top using the lashing rope on the ladder.
7. Tetra or URAT? Personnel who have been trained to use Tetra MUST use it. There is no option for Tetra trained personnel to revert back to the URAT method of securing ladders.
8. If using URAT the climber must climb the ladder until their shoulders are roughly level with the top of the ladder stiles. At this point they must pass their lanyard around the pole and fasten it correctly back on itself. The lanyard must then be worked up the pole as the climber transitions from the ladder to the pole and climbs until they are stood on the working steps. The lanyard must be kept as high as possible during the climb.
9. If Using the Tetra system, the climber must follow the Tetra procedures ensuring that they are attached at all times from ground level until they return to ground level having completed their work overhead.
10. Work positioning Belt: The work positioning belt should be fixed by its carabiner to the metal “D” ring on the harness waist belt. It is the climber’s preference whether to attach to the right or left hand side of the waist belt. The hook on the free end of the work belt should be stowed on one of the plastic “D” rings on the harness so that it will break away if the loop is caught on anything. The work positioning belt should only be deployed while stationary on the pole either when stood on the working steps or while carrying out obstacle crossing procedures. The climber should not climb or descend the pole with the work positioning belt fastened. The work positioning belt is fastened by passing the hook end around the pole and clipping it onto the metal “D”ring on the opposite side of the waist belt to the carabiner. Once deployed, the work positioning belt should be adjusted so that it is parallel to the ground. The length of the work positioning belt should then also be adjusted if necessary to achieve a comfortable working position.
11. Lanyard: The lanyard should be fastened to the climbing harness at the chest point. The carabiner with the fall arrest device attached should be attached to the chest fixing point, the end with the hook should be stowed on one of the plastic “D” rings on the harness so that it will break away if the loop is caught on anything
12. Climbing: While climbing the ladder or the pole safe climbing techniques must be used maintain 3 points of contact at all times (Tetra counts as 1point of contact) Ladders should be climbed placing hands and feet on the rungs, not using the stiles as hand holds!

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