

Electricity Policy Document 211

Issue 3 July 2023

Quality Assurance of New Connection Assets



Amendment Summary

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1 Foreword

This policy is designed to give the basic requirements for the quality assurance of assets installed to provide new connections to any electricity distribution network owned by Electricity North West Limited, hereinafter referred to as Electricity North West Limited. Although the need for this policy arises in association with the liberalisation of the connections market, the policy shall be applied to all new connections to be adopted as part of any network owned by Electricity North West Limited, whether they are provided by Independent Connection Providers (ICP) or by Electricity North West Limited. Reference should also be made to Electricity North West Limited' Condition 4B statement and to the relevant adoption agreement.

2 Scope

This Electricity Policy Document (EPD) applies to all electricity network assets, which are installed to provide new connections to a network owned by Electricity North West Limited and intended to be adopted by Electricity North West Limited. It therefore applies to assets constructed by ICPs.

This EPD is restricted to technical and quality issues associated with assets and does not deal with operational matters, such as compliance with safety rules, or with trading arrangements such as the setting up of Meter Point Administration Numbers.

The quality assurance régime, set out in this EPD, is for specific application to new connections to Electricity North West Limited' distribution networks (11kV and lower voltages). Quality assurance requirements applicable to connections to Electricity North West Limited' 132kV and 33kV networks and to other Electricity North West networks outside its Distribution Services Area shall be specified on a project-specific basis, but shall, nevertheless, be in accordance with the same general principles.

This EPD lays down the basic requirements for Electricity North West Limited' receiving designs, monitoring the construction phase, including auditing as appropriate, and managing new connection assets during and after the adoption process.

3 Requirements

The general requirements for any provider to comply with, when constructing assets for adoption are laid down in the "Statement of Methodology and Charges for Connection to Electricity North West Limited Distribution Network" (i.e. Electricity North West Limited' Condition 4B Statement) and in the terms of any adoption agreement applicable to the works in question.

The basic technical considerations and data requirements are detailed in Electricity North West Limited' Electricity Specification (ES) 210.

In applying this policy, it is recognised that Electricity North West Limited could have a significant interface with some ICPs. Where there is a significant volume of business across such an interface, there is obviously benefit to both parties in forging increased levels of trust. This EPD recognises such advantages by requiring less onerous inspection regimes for those installers who have demonstrated their expertise and experience over a period.

All installers and their contractors and subcontractors shall be accredited through the National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS) for the work content associated with designing and constructing the assets associated with any particular network extension or new exit point.

In connection with work carried out under a live-jointing trial, reference shall also be made to EPD616 or EPD617 as appropriate.

4 Design Approval

All designs shall be submitted for approval by Electricity North West Limited.

5 Construction & Adoption Process

The Competitive Adoptions Manager shall maintain a schedule of progress of all connections work.

The Competitive Adoptions Manager shall arrange for inspectors to visit the works as necessary to maintain levels of inspection in accordance with [Table A in Appendix A](#).

Subject to experience of the installer or his contractor or subcontractor completing levels of work to the required standard, the inspection regime for that installer, contractor or sub-contractor may be relaxed in accordance with the requirements of [Table A](#).

Use of any contractor or subcontractor of which Electricity North West Limited does not have relevant experience shall result in the application of initial inspection levels as detailed in [Table A](#). Nevertheless, work by a contractor or subcontractor for other electricity distribution network operators and their experiences will be taken into account.

Should the results of inspection be deemed to be unsatisfactory, Electricity North West Limited shall notify the installer of the alleged defect. Action shall be taken, without undue delay, to remedy any defect to the satisfaction of Electricity North West Limited. Such remedial action shall be in accordance with [Section 6](#) below.

Should the results of inspection with any particular contractor or sub-contractor be deemed to be unsatisfactory, in addition to the actions taken to rectify problems, in accordance with sub-section 5.5, the inspection level shall be increased to that of the previous break point, as indicated in [Table A](#). Where applicable, the installer shall be charged for the increased inspections.

The installer shall be charged for all audits actually carried out on his installation, up to the applicable audit levels, in accordance with [Table A](#). Where, at Electricity North West Limited' discretion, audits are carried out in excess of the applicable audit level, no charge will be levied for those audits, unless defects are discovered as a result.

The Competitive Adoptions Manager shall maintain an installer-specific record, to which the installer shall have access, of all audits carried out and defects found on his installations. Such records shall be kept for a minimum period of 2 years following the completion of the relevant installation.

6 Rectification of Defects

6.1 Before Connection to Electricity North West Limited Network and Adoption

Should the installer's works fail, or be found to be defective, before connection to Electricity North West Limited network, the installer is responsible for rectification and repair.

6.2 After Connection to United Utilities Network and Adoption

Once the installation has been connected to Electricity North West Limited network, the assets are wholly owned and under the control of Electricity North West Limited. If Electricity North West Limited has grounds for believing that the quality of the original installation works, or equipment is a factor in either a failure or in other unusual maintenance costs of the assets, the installer shall, where possible, be given the opportunity to examine and witness the repair operation as necessary. In appropriate circumstances and with the agreement of Electricity North West Limited, the installer may have the opportunity to carry out some or all of the remedial work himself. Where urgent repair is necessary, Electricity North West Limited will take reasonable steps to preserve evidence of the defect. The installer shall be charged for any repair carried out by Electricity North West Limited.

Once the installation is complete and the contractual guarantee period has expired, Electricity North West Limited shall be financially responsible for all routine repair and maintenance.

6.3 Third Party Damage

After the installation has been connected to Electricity North West Limited network, any third party damage shall be repaired by Electricity North West Limited.

7 Disputes and Arbitration

If the installer disputes the findings of any audit or the alleged cause of any failure, he shall, in the first instance, refer the matter to the Competitive Adoptions Manager. If no satisfactory agreement can be reached, after such referral, the matter shall then be referred to the Connections Liaison Manager. If further dispute resolution is necessary, it shall proceed in accordance with the adoption agreement.

8 Documents Referenced

DOCUMENTS REFERENCED	
EPD616	LV Live Jointing Regime for an ICP to undertake work on Greenfield and Brownfield Development Sites
EPD617	LV Live Jointing Regime for Street Lighting Work to be undertaken by an ICP (excluding Development Sites)
ES210	General Specification for Third-Party Constructed New Connections, Extensions and Alterations
Statement of Methodology and Charges for Connection to Electricity North West Limited Distribution Network (i.e. Electricity North West Limited Condition 4B Statement)	
Electricity North West Limited form of Agreement to Adopt	

9 Keywords

Asset; Connection; Construction; Inspection; ICP

Appendix A – Table A

	Activity	Initial Inspection Level	First Break Point Inspection Level	Second Break Point Inspection Level
1	Mains cable installation	50% per site	following 10 successful inspections of 5 sites within 6 months 10%	following 5 further successful inspections of 5 sites within further 6 months 5%
2	Erection of overhead lines	100%	following 10 successful inspections of 5 sites within 6 months 40%	following 5 further successful inspections in 6 months 5%
3	Service cable installation	10%	following 20 successful inspections across a minimum of 5 sites within 6 months 2%	2%
4	Mains jointing	50%	following 10 joints successfully inspected across a minimum of 5 sites within 6 months 10%	following 5 further joints successfully inspected within 6 months 5%
5	Service jointing	20%	following 20 terminations successfully inspected across a minimum of 5 sites within 6 months 5%	following 20 further terminations successfully inspected across a minimum of 5 sites within 6 months 2%
6	Service termination	20%	following 20 terminations successfully inspected across a minimum of 5 sites within 6 months	2%

	Activity	Initial Inspection Level	First Break Point Inspection Level	Second Break Point Inspection Level
			2%	