

Electricity Policy Document 332

Issue 3 January 2023

Customer Installation Earthing



Amendment Summary

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1 Foreword

The provision of earthing facilities for customers' installations is the legal responsibility of the customers themselves. This applies to both high voltage and low voltage supplies.

The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 state that unless there is an appropriate reason on safety grounds all new connections shall be provided with an earth terminal. In the case of low voltage customers such an earthing terminal will in general provide a metallic return path to the neutral point of the distribution transformer.

2 Scope

This EPD defines Electricity North West Limited' policy relating to the provision of earthing facilities for customers.

This EPD supersedes and replaces EPD332, Issue 2.

3 Policy

For low voltage customers, Electricity North West Limited are committed to the policy outlined in Engineering Recommendation P20/1, that is:

- (a) to provide an efficient means of customer earthing on all new networks, provided customers comply with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002;
- (b) to improve the earthing for customers on existing networks (e.g. overhead lines without a separate earth wire, non-continuous metallic sheathed cables) and those with connections to water pipes.

Protective Multiple Earthing (PME) is the preferred means of achieving these aims in general and is seen as a considerable improvement on the existing means of customer earthing in (b) above.

Engineering Recommendation G12/4 is the standard which sets out the requirements to be adopted when PME is applied, and within Electricity North West Limited the means of compliance with G12/4 is by use of Code of Practice 332 "LV Service Connections & Application of PME". The guidance in CP332 includes that needed for Separate Neutral Earth (SNE) and residual circuit breaker protected installations in addition to PME.

High voltage customers shall provide their own earthing arrangements for the low voltage systems on their own premises. However, if the Earth Potential Rise (EPR) is less than 430V, the two earthing systems may be combined.

The application of CP332 for low voltage customers ensures that the requirements of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 are complied with.

An earth loop impedance check shall be carried out and the earthing terminal verified as adequate for its purpose before such an earthing terminal is released for use by a customer.

4 Documents Referenced

DOCUMENTS REFERENCED	
Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002	
Engineering Recommendation G 12/4	Requirements for the Application of PME to Low Voltage Networks
Engineering Recommendation P20/	Earthing Policy in Relation to the Customers Installations
CP332	LV Service Connections & Application of PME

5 Keywords

Earthing; PME; Customer; Policy;