

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

TB-0197

Pole Reinstatement Assessment Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to inform employees and/or contractors of the revised criteria for assessing the suitability of reinstating wood poles as well as the serviceability requirements for reinstated poles.

Background

Currently, in accordance with MMI 0001, the procedure for assessing if a wood pole is suitable for reinstatement involves drilling the pole and measuring the wall thickness above ground. That is, if the wall thickness is greater or equal to 60mm, at both 300mm and 1200mm above ground, the pole may be eligible for reinstatement.

However, the current pole reinstatement provider, UAM, recommends (and guarantees) that poles are suitable for reinstatement if the wall thickness is greater or equal to 45mm at 900mm above ground. There is no requirement to measure the wall thickness above ground at any other location. Furthermore, a pole reinstated by UAM can remain in service provided the wall thickness at 900mm above ground is greater or equal to 30mm.

Actions

Wood poles shall now be assessed for suitability of reinstatement by measuring the wall thickness only at 900mm above ground. If two walls are greater or equal to 45mm, the pole may be suitable for reinstatement. It is not necessary to measure the wall thickness above ground at any other location.

Poles reinstated by UAM shall be assessed for serviceability by checking the wall thickness within the top 700mm of the nail. The wall thickness must be greater or equal to 30mm to remain in service. To minimise further damage to the pole, **existing drilled hole(s)** in this area shall be utilised (for example, holes that were previously drilled at the time that the pole was determined to be suitable for reinstatement). However, the pole shall also be sounded along the top 700mm of the nail; any areas that are identified to be significantly unsound (compared to where the existing hole(s) are located) shall be drilled for further assessment. Note that if there are no existing drill holes present, the pole shall be drilled at the most unsound area in the top 700mm of the nail, or between the bolts if no significantly unsound areas can be identified.

All other types of reinstated poles shall continue to be assessed with the existing serviceability criteria.

The above is reflected in the revised *Assessment of Serviceability Flowchart* which can be found in **Annexure 1**. This flowchart includes the changes to pole reinstatement criteria detailed in technical bulletin TB-0174 (issued December 2014).

It should be noted that cross-road service poles at kerb line shall now be considered for reinstatement.

It should also be noted that transmission poles are to be considered for reinstatement.

Contact: Andrew Tang

Phone: 9853 6714

Date: 7 August 2015

Authorised by: Jude Perera, Manager Primary Systems

51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148

Telephone: 131 718 Fax: (02) 9853 6000

Postal Address: PO Box 811 Seven Hills NSW 1730.

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Annexure 1



