

ASP Safety Alert

Electrical Safety & Authorisations



Alert Number: SA15_18

Subject: Pole Inspection Requirements v2

26/02/2019

Key Messages

Please ensure that the required pre climb checks are completed prior to work on an Ausgrid network pole.

A recent incident involving an ASP working on an Ausgrid network pole, has highlighted the importance of ensuring that ASP's Safety Management Systems align with the relevant parts of Ausgrid's standards when completing work on or near the Ausgrid network.

In this particular incident, the investigation found that the ASP has not completed the required pre climb checks, as outlined in [NS146 – Inspection procedure for working on poles](#), prior to ascending the pole and ultimately the pole failed due to the ASP's work.



NS 146 Inspection procedure for working on poles

Part of an ASP's authorisation is to ensure that their safety system aligns with all network standards relevant to the work they are performing. The recent incident has highlighted the importance of this, in particular the requirements for inspecting an Ausgrid network pole before working on them.

Ausgrid network standard '[NS146 Inspection procedure for working on poles](#)' details these inspection requirements. Please ensure that your safety systems (including safe work method statements, work instructions etc) include these requirements.

Some of the key requirements of [NS146](#) include:

- Complete a visual inspection;
 - Check for unusually tight or loose conductors, including service mains.
 - Broken insulators or equipment etc.
- Sound the pole (as per procedures detailed in [NS145 Pole Inspection and Treatment](#));
 - This shall be performed using the ball of a [ballpeen hammer](#).
 - At least 8 soundings around the circumference, one on each flat face of a dressed pole, within 50mm of groundline, then at least 4 times around the pole at each 500mm interval above groundline to as high as you can comfortably reach
- Below ground inspection NS146 section 5.4;
 - Initially excavate at least 200mm deep, but no further than 350mm on the neutral axis of the pole.
 - Use a rounded point bar to test the soundness.
 - Where the initial test indicates sound timber, excavate 350mm below ground around the entire pole base.
 - Use a rounded point bar to test the soundness.

Please note, that the above requirements are an extract from NS146, and ASPs are to ensure that they read it and other relevant documents in their entirety when developing their safety systems.

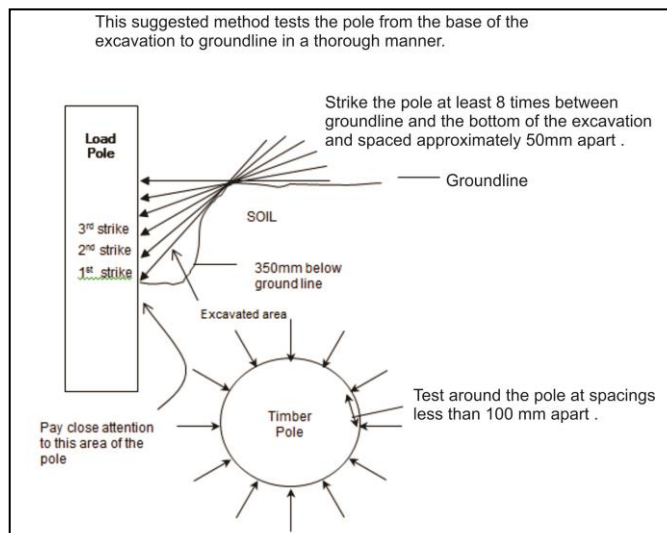


Figure 1 (NS146 page 25)

ES4 Accredited Service Provider Authorisation

Ausgrid's network Standard '[ES4 Accredited Service Provider Authorisation](#)' section 6.1 states;

ASPs are responsible for the safety of their employees and the public whilst carrying out contestable work. It is essential that authorised work is performed in a safe manner and to no less a standard than is specified in Ausgrid's:

- Ausgrid's [ESRs](#);
- [Network Standards](#) (including this document);
- Electrical Standards; and
- Other Ausgrid policies relating to contestable work and safe work practices.

ASPs are required to:

- have a safety management system for undertaking their authorised work on the network;
- obtain relevant components of Ausgrid's safety management system such as the ESRs from Ausgrid;
- review the relevant components from Ausgrid; and
- confirm that their arrangements for managing health and safety (as set out in their safety management system) as consistent with Ausgrid's system.

Ausgrid would like to remind ASPs of the importance of ensuring your safety systems are up to date and meet the authorisation requirements for working on Ausgrid's network.

Links

ES4 Accredited Service Provider Authorisation

<https://www.ausgrid.com.au/-/media/Documents/Technical-Documentation/ES/ES4-Accredited-Service-Provider-Authorisation.pdf>

NS146 Inspection procedure for working on poles

<https://www.ausgrid.com.au/-/media/Documents/Technical-Documentation/NS/NS146.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding any of the above content or associated procedures please do not hesitate to contact an Ausgrid Project Officer at Level1asp@ausgrid.com.au or ASPLLevel2@ausgrid.com.au.

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Project Officers