

Pole Inspection Requirements — NS146

Inspection Procedure for Working on Poles

General Information



13 August 2026

Dear ASPs,

This notice is to remind Accredited Service Providers working on or near Ausgrid poles that a pole inspection and test must be completed in accordance with NS146 Inspection Procedure for Working on Poles before work commences.

This follows a recent pole failure during planned service work where concealed deterioration was not identified before the pole loading was altered.

Before climbing, working from an EWP, or altering the loading on any pole, workers must confirm the pole is safe to work on and is not at risk of collapse during the work.

When is a pole inspection and test required?

A pole inspection and test must be completed before working on any pole, in accordance with NS146. This applies to work carried out by:

- climbing the pole - using a ladder, pole platform or pole steps;
- using an Elevating Work Platform — EWP;
- carrying out service work, linework, telecommunications work; or
- carrying out any work that may change the loading on the pole.

If the work involves disconnecting, lowering, removing, replacing or re-tensioning conductors or services, workers must consider whether the loading on the pole or nearby poles will change. Any affected pole must be inspected and confirmed safe to work on before work proceeds.

Do not proceed if the pole condition cannot be confirmed



Training and authorisation requirements

All Class 2C authorised individuals must complete the Pole Safety Inspection (Awareness) online training on an annual basis to maintain compliance with Class 2C authorisation requirements.

ASPs are responsible for ensuring their authorised workers remain current and compliant with all training and authorisation requirements before undertaking work on or near Ausgrid poles.

Important Requirements

Before work proceeds:

- Pole safety must be verified in accordance with Ausgrid's NS146 Inspection Procedure for working on poles.
- Use of an EWP does not remove the requirement to inspect and test the pole.
- Preservative wrapping or Bio Guard bandage must be removed where required so the inspection zone can be properly assessed.
- Excavation alone is not a complete below-ground inspection.
- Correct inspection tools and methods must be used.

Do not climb, work from an EWP, or alter pole loading if:

- the pole is conditionally serviceable or condemned, unless it is adequately stayed, restrained or supported;
- active termites, significant decay, splitting, cavities, pole movement, inadequate foundation or defective markings are identified;
- the pole condition cannot be confirmed; or
- there are any concerns about the integrity of the pole.

Conductors and services under tension must be released in a controlled manner. Shock loading must be avoided.

Where concerns are identified, work must not proceed. Contact Ausgrid on 13 13 65, or 13 13 88 in emergency situations.

Required pole inspection equipment

ASPs must ensure workers have access to the correct equipment to complete pole inspection and testing in accordance with NS146, including:

- Voltage detector suitable for confirming the absence of hazardous voltages before initial contact with the pole;
- Ball-pein hammer — 450 grams for above-ground sounding; and
- Rounded point bar — approximately 6 kg for below-ground inspection and testing.

Workers must use the correct tools and apply the required inspection method, including the specified sounding and strike pattern where below-ground inspection is required.



If you require further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact your Ausgrid representative.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to safety and efficiency in our network operations.

Ausgrid
Connections Assurance