

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance and Practices



Alert Number: SA09_18

Subject: Correct procedure for windowing and cutting conduits

28 June 2018

Key Messages

The correct tools and works procedures must be used when windowing and cutting conduits on or near the Ausgrid network.

Powered cutting saws are not to be used on or near the Ausgrid network

Description of incident

On the 08 May 2018, an ASP was carrying out preparation works inside a joint bay involving the cutting of electrical conduits. Prior to cutting, the ASP windowed the conduits to prove there were no assets located within. Following windowing, the ASP attempted to complete the final cutting of the conduits using a battery powered reciprocating saw. During the cutting process the tip of the reciprocating saw made contact with a direct buried 11kV feeder cable located beneath the conduits resulting in an uncontrolled discharge of electricity to occur.

Extent of impact

The ASP staff member attended hospital for mandatory observation and was released without injury. The incident was reported to Ausgrid who attended site, isolated the faulted section of cable, restored supply and commenced repairs. The ASP was subsequently suspended from all works on or near the Ausgrid network

Procedure for cutting inspection windows into HD PVC conduits

Hand and eye protection must be worn when cutting inspection windows in underground conduits

To cut inspection windows into HD PVC conduits, a *depth guided veneer saw* must be used. The depth guide is pre-set at 3mm by the manufacturer to ensure that inadvertent contact with any assets located within the conduits cannot occur.





Using the *depth guided veneer saw*, make 3 parallel cuts concentrically across the conduit to the depth governed by the depth gauge. The spacing and length of these cuts will determine the final size of the inspection window. Following the parallel cuts, cut an X between the two outside lines.

Use a ball pein hammer to strike the centre of the X until a rectangular section of the conduit breaks away resulting in an inspection window.



Note: The location of the inspection window should be in the section of conduit to be cut out and abandoned

Procedure for cutting HD PVC conduits on or near the Ausgrid network

All cables and conduits detailed in underground plans in the vicinity of the proposed works must be exposed. Excavations must be cleared of spoil to a minimum of 200mm around any cable covers, joints, cables or conduits.

Once conduits have been positively identified to be clear of any assets, a *cable saw* must be used to complete the final cutting of electrical conduits.

Care must be taken when using a *cable saw* to ensure that inadvertent contact is not made with any surrounding assets.



Powered cutting saws of any type are not to be used on or near the Ausgrid network under any circumstance

Ausgrid

Project Officers