

ASP Safety Alert

Electrical Safety & Authorisations



Alert Number: SA14_17

Subject: Steel Framed Pillars - Requirements of NS199

29 November 2017

Key Messages

ASPs are reminded that work is not permitted on energised steel framed pillars. Where a steel framed pillar is suspected, the requirements for conducting a pre-inspection before the removal of the pillar turret must be in accordance with NS199

Ausgrid has identified instances where ASPs have conducted work on steel framed pillars without following the procedure detailed in *NS199 – Safe Electrical Working on Low Voltage Assets*.

ASP's are reminded that work on these pillars is not permitted, and to always follow the requirements of *NS199*, when determining if the pillar is compliant or not.

Identifying Steel Framed Pillars

These pillars are usually identified by a concrete base, fibreglass turret and the longest side of the (rectangular) pillar aligned parallel to the front property boundary.

These pillars must not be opened whilst energised, due to the risk of flashover on opening.

Should you be unsure if the pillar is steel framed, the turret may be lifted with caution to a maximum of 50mm, whilst wearing appropriate PPE, to check for the presence of a steel frame (Refer Fig1). If a steel frame is detected, the pillar turret must be lowered and secured immediately and contact made with Ausgrid to arrange for an outage to conduct the work.



Figure 1 – Typical steel framed pillar (lower Hunter region) (including 50mm opening, for steel frame detection)

NS199 – Clause 9.3.7 - Steel framed pillars in the lower Hunter region



NS199 – Clause 9.3.7 – Steel framed pillars in the lower hunter region

More information on steel framed pillars, and other non-compliant pillars can be found in *NS199 – Safe Electrical Working on Low Voltage Assets*.

For further information please contact an Electrical Safety & Authorisations Officer.

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