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CLASSIFICATION OF OVERHEAD LINE HIGH RISK SPANS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PURPOSE AND SCOPE.....	1
PART 1 –PROCEDURAL	1
1 ELECTRICITY SAFETY, QUALITY AND CONTINUITY (ESQC) REGULATIONS 2002	1
2 ASSESSMENT OF RISK.....	2
3 ADVICE FOR EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.....	2
PART 2 - DEFINITIONS AND DOCUMENT HISTORY	3
4 DEFINITIONS	3
AMENDMENTS RECORD	3
PART 3 - GUIDANCE NOTES AND APPENDICES	4
5 REFERENCES	4
APPENDIX A	5

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document provides guidance for the classification of overhead line high risk spans, and should be read in conjunction with PS (T) 018 “Prevention of Unauthorised Access to Steel Lattice Overhead Line Supports” and TGN (E) 194 “Classification of Risk of Unauthorised Access to Overhead Line Towers”.

This guidance note attempts to address the historical issue of categorising and managing high risk overhead line spans by means of a standardised approach.

PART 1 –PROCEDURAL

1 ELECTRICITY SAFETY, QUALITY AND CONTINUITY (ESQC) REGULATIONS 2002

This guidance document shall be read in conjunction with Policy Statement PS (T) 018 & TGN (E) 194 and is intended to ensure that National Grid complies with the ESQC regulations, Section 3(2) which states:

Generators and distributors shall—

- a) *For each of their overhead lines or part thereof and for each of their substations, assess the foreseeable risk of danger from interference, vandalism or unauthorised access, having regard to both the nature of the equipment and use of the surrounding land, and classify the degree of the risk;*
- b) *Enter details of the result of the classification of risk in a register or other permanent record kept updated for the purpose; and*
- c) *Take measures to safeguard the equipment commensurate with the nature and class of risk to which it gives rise.*

1.1 Classification of Risk

It is essential that a reliable and accurate database is maintained which holds the records of all identified high risk spans. This database must be user friendly and allow simple access to all relevant parties.

The specific usage of land beneath National Grid overhead line spans is varied and can change in a short period of time. It is extremely important that OHL staff are observant and

report any changes in land use whilst carrying out their routine maintenance/inspection duties.

The risk categorisation of the span shall be reviewed at each inspection or as necessitated by changes or incidents in the span and the database shall be updated to reflect this. The maximum review period shall be 2 years.

High Risk spans are such that they present a higher than normal danger to persons from interference, vandalism or unauthorised access through their normal day to day activities or work.

Overhead line spans are categorised as High Risk if they are:

- a) Residential high risk spans – play and vandalism areas i.e. kite flying, objects thrown onto the line, combustible material, bonfires, and alterations to houses/buildings.
- b) Farming high risk spans – low spans over high activity areas i.e. farmyards loading areas, building/building maintenance, arable farming evidence of the use of high machinery or stacked bales.
- c) Water high risk spans – evidence of leisure activities on lakes, canals or rivers i.e. fishing, sailing.
- d) Leisure activities high risk spans – risk due to uncontrolled activities, caravan sites, sports fields, public open spaces and land awaiting development. Festivals, ballooning, kite flying, fairgrounds, large gatherings of children and youths.
- e) Industrial high risk spans – construction work activity where it comes to the attention of the Delivery Engineer via a 3rd party enquiry or concerns expressed by individuals record site visit on Risk Assessment. Build up of combustible material i.e. pallet stores, oil drum storage/reclamation premises, recycling etc

1.2 Assessment Procedure (See Appendix A Process Chart)

- i) Whilst carrying out the routine overhead line foot patrols each line team identifies obstacles in the span and captures this data on the Point of Work (POW) devices.
- ii) The OHL Delivery Engineer then reviews this information for possibilities of High Risk spans using the assessment guidance (See appendix A).
- iii) If the span is deemed as High Risk then the Vulnerable Tower Database shall be updated giving the reason why and the recommended actions. If the span is deemed to be not High Risk then no action is required.
- iv) Land and Development shall regularly review the Vulnerable Tower Database for the decided actions and allocate resource from the area concerned.
- v) If further visits are required the database shall be updated to reflect this, if not then the recommended actions are carried out and the database updated.

2 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

Appendix A shows the assessment guidance and process chart for categorising the risk classification and control measures for high risk spans.

3 ADVICE FOR EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

Not applicable.