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FIXED FALL ARREST SYSTEMS FOR OVERHEAD LINE TOWERS

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document forms part of a suite of documents which define National Grid's functional and performance requirements for new plant and equipment associated with electricity transmission.

This Specification covers the requirements applicable to the design and assessment of temporary or permanent fixed fall arrest systems for installation on overhead line towers operated by National Grid at 132, 275 or 400 kV.

A fixed fall arrest system is a supplementary safety device which provides fall arrest for overhead linemen whilst climbing the designated climbing leg of a tower.

A fixed fall arrest attachment system comprises a fixed wire rope, mounting brackets and all other equipment necessary for one complete climbing leg of a tower. National Grid towers have two designated climbing legs. Hence, two systems will be required per tower and shall be suitable for installation on all National Grid's tower design types and heights including suspension, angle and junction towers. Terminal towers may require site specific review.

Fixed fall arrest systems will be subject to the National Grid sanctioning process applicable to any safety equipment for use on National Grid overhead lines.

PART 1 – PROCEDURAL

1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

All systems shall comply with this specification, all current legislation associated with working at height and must be approved and sanctioned as fit for use by National Grid's Asset Management Maintenance Delivery Electricity (AM MDE) - Development Group.

All systems shall be suitable for installation on all National Grid tower design types and heights and shall attach to the tower steelwork using suitable mountings.

All systems shall be designed to allow climbing access as a minimum onto the top crossarm.

The system shall be CE marked and supplied with an approved rope grab.

The system should not contain any components that may be reflective or otherwise cause a hazard to the general public.

The supplier must ensure that a robust audit trail of both installed hardware and installation operatives is established and maintained and that access to this information is granted to National Grid upon request.

The supplier shall provide an agreed package of training for National Grid staff and National Grid appointed Contractors to enable them to carry out installation and any maintenance and inspection works.

It is mandatory that only trained personnel are allowed to carry out fall arrest system installation and inspections on National Grid towers. Installation shall be strictly in accordance with the supplier's instructions. Any discrepancies, misalignment, faulty parts or difficulty in fitting any system components shall be reported immediately to the supplier and National Grid (MDE).