

Construction News - Engineering

Installation of Spare Conduits in New Installations

- > For all new cable installations, Essential Energy now specify a spare electrical conduit to be included to allow more efficient maintenance or replacement activities
- > The series of standards drawings CEOM7201, have all been updated to show the spare conduit
- > There will be a six-month period for this construction change to be phased in
- > All projects where the Design Information Package is issued or re-issued post this Construction News shall include spare conduit/s in line with the requirements detailed in the above series of drawings.

Background – what happened?

Essential Energy replace underground cables when they fail or if adequate repairs can't be completed to place the cable back into service. These are typically older cables and generally installed in locations where significant surface developments have taken place, such as buildings roadways, footpaths etc.

The cost to access and replace a damaged cable increases when surface elements must be reinstated. In many cases the only option is to directionally drill under the surface elements which adds significant time and cost to the cable replacement work. Directional drilling presents its own set of risks, such as avoiding other services, positive identification of exact location and depth.

What happens now?

In line with other Electricity Supply Authorities in NSW, when constructing a new cable trench, for both contestable works or internal capital works, cables are to be direct buried and an additional spare conduit for each voltage involved must be installed as per the updates CEOM7201 series of drawings.

In the case of CEOM7201.02, where cables crossing roadways are normally installed in conduit, a spare conduit is required.

The spare conduit/s are to be continuous for the length of the circuit, with all joins properly primed and glued and both ends sealed with a primed and glued-on cap, such that they remain totally sealed to provide a viable solution should a cable fail or need to be replaced in the future. They should extend to within 1 metre of the padsub, pit, pillar, or pole that the cable originates from or terminates to.

To allow the industry to become aware and familiar with this requirement, and to avoid changing scope after designs have already been certified and construction started, a phasing-in period of six months will apply.

All new development plans should include spare conduit/s in their design.

There will be a six-month phasing in from the date of this Construction News. Any new installations post the grace period that do not provide the required spare conduit/s will be defected and will need to be re-worked to include them.

What do you need to do?

Familiarise yourself with the changes to the drawing series CEOM7201.

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Work Practice Tip



All joins and end caps on the spare conduit must be primed and glued to ensure a viable future option.



More information is available on [Standards Online](#). If you have any questions, please contact: Graeme Barnewall, on 02 6589 8748.