

Construction News - Engineering

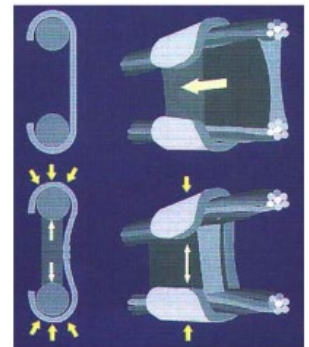
Removal of AMPACT Wedge Clamps from Construction Standards

- > Essential Energy will remove the use of AMPACT Wedge Connectors from the Construction Standards and the Approved Materials List (AML) from 30 September 2020
- > Parallel Groove Clamps (PG Clamp) and Compression Sleeves will be the preferred connection method moving forward
- > A 12-month grace period will apply as per the conditions listed in the AML to allow existing stock holdings to be utilised.

Background

Essential Energy has investigated the non-tension connection methods currently used on the network. Through this process an opportunity to rationalise the number of options and optimise costs has been identified. From 30 September 2020, AMPACT Wedge connectors will be removed from the Construction Standards and the AML.

The preferred method of connection will be PG Clamps and Compression sleeves. With the removal of the AMPACT wedges from the AML, the number of item types that we need to keep in stock will reduce from around 70 units to eight. Safety has also been considered in this decision due to the explosive charge used to install AMPACT.



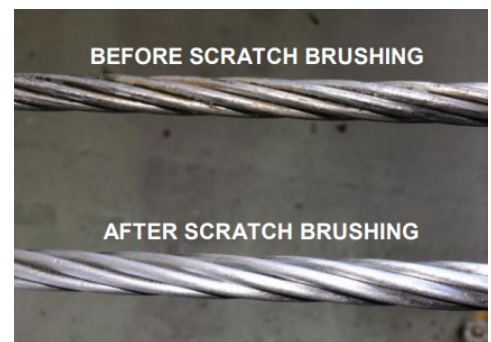
Wedge Clamp

What do you need to do?

As current stockholdings of AMPACT wedge clamps are exhausted Essential Energy field staff and Accredited Service Providers (ASPs) should familiarise themselves with PG Clamp and Compression sleeve installation procedures.

Key points for creating a solid connection include:

- > Scratch brushing the conductor until clean and shiny as pictured to the right
- > For PG Clamps, apply the appropriate grease straight after scratch brushing, for the conductors being connected. Compression Sleeves are supplied with the grease already in connector
- > Ensure the die size is the same as indicated on the compression sleeve
- > Be careful to not over tension the PG Clamp. The use of rattle guns or impact drives is not advised due to the risk of over tensioning and damage to the conductor.



More information is available on [Standards Online](#). If you have any questions, please contact: David O'Brien, on (02) 6588 6782 or 0429 313 741.