



Office of the
Telecommunications
Adjudicator

OR / CP Pole & Wire Separations

General Agreement & Best Practice Guide

Version 1

1. Introduction

This document positions a range of issues which may arise due to co-location of CP/ BT Poles & Overhead Wires. It also explains the “Good Practice” approach to separation, which has been agreed between CP’s and Openreach.

2. Background

BT are no longer the only party with code powers to erect Poles and Overhead Telecommunications Equipment in the public domain. Increasingly, other CP’s are providing their own Poles and overhead wires, which may or may not, directly interface with that of BT under the Openreach PIA product offering.

Some newly provided Network has been installed very close to that which is already existing, creating new issues for the industry in the shape of an increased safety risk for Engineers and increased network fault liabilities.

3. Examples of issues

Below are some examples of issues that arisen in the absence of any clear guidance on suitable Pole and Plant separation.

3.1 New CP wires erected close to existing BT Pole and its climbing steps. This has created a potential:

- Safety issue for any climber of the pole
- Network reliability issue for the CP due to wire rubbing on Pole / Step
- Obstruction for other CP’s who may want to attach FTTP kit on the pole



3.2 New Pole erected against existing Aerial Cable, which has created:

- A Safety risk to the Pole climber
- A likelihood of the Aerial Cable sheathing rubbing through to conductors and causing multiple faults / unnecessary disruption to Customers



3.3 Mid Span contact between newly erected CP Wire and BT Dropwire.

This introduces an increased network fault issue for the both CP's involved, due to rubbing.



3.4 New CP Pole erected within 850mm of an existing Pole. With the following negative outcomes:

- Wire fan from poles likely to intermesh quite tightly, with likelihood of network faults as a result
- Potential climbing hazard if one pole is shorter than the other, as engineer may have to climb through the wire canopy of the adjacent pole
- Foundational strength of both poles reduced



4. Agreement on “Good Engineering Practice” for new Pole & Wire installations

At an initial meeting between CP’s, Openreach and OTA2, Openreach put forward some suggested Pole and Plant separation distances, which it felt would help in mitigating some of the co-location issues highlighted elsewhere in this document.

These were generally well received and CP’s were invited to consider them further and to share any issues that they may have with Openreach.

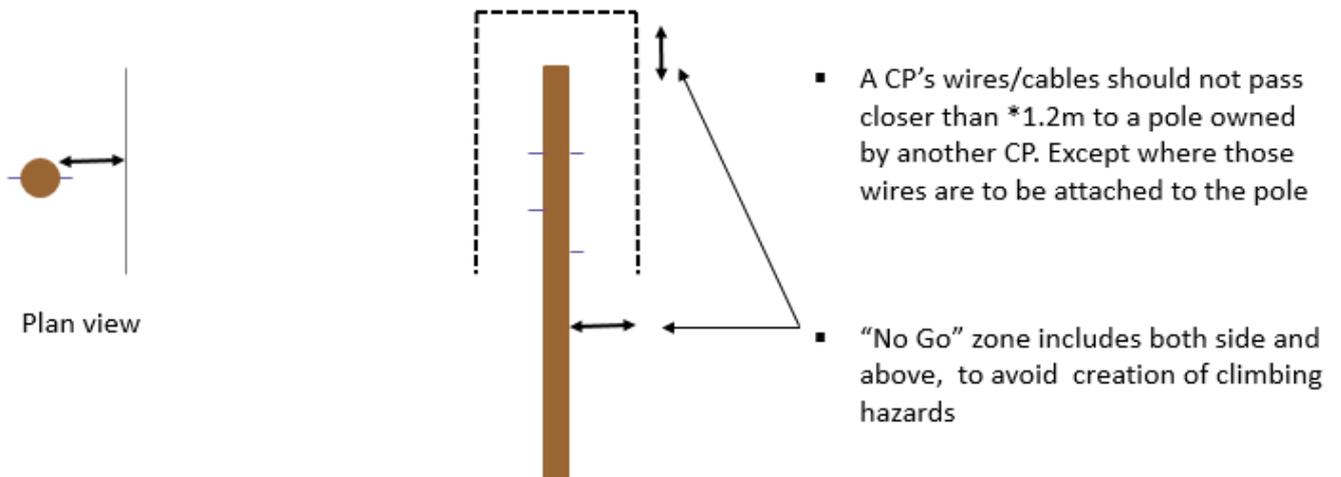
A further meeting was held on 23/04/21 and with no issues / objections received, it was decided to formalise the new separation distances into “Good Engineering Practice” for all CP’s (Inc Openreach) to follow.

It was recognised that some adjustment to the distances etc may be required in light of actual operational issues that may experienced. However, all parties felt happy to introduce them as a best practice standard and to reconvene at some agreed point in time (3 months), to review again and amend (if necessary).

5. Good Practice - Details

The following standard clearances form the basis of the agreed Good Engineering Practice for Overhead Networks owned by different CP's.

5.1 Wire to Pole separation



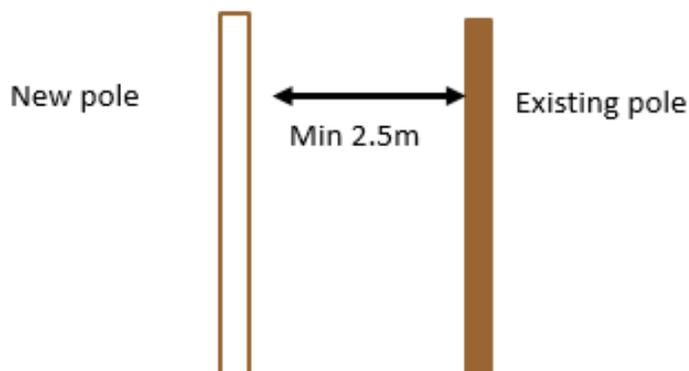
5.2 Wire to Wire separation

Where wires cross in span, then the minimum clearance between existing wires and another CP's wires should be 300mm, either above or below. This to prevent risk of rubbing/abrasion between wires, leading to network faults.

Telenco Tree Guard wire wrap is recommended to provide protection where a contact is inevitable.

5.3 Pole to Pole separation

Minimum distance between new and existing poles = 2.5m





6. Document ownership / change request

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