

**SECTION 26 05 41**  
**UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

- A. This section specifies the furnishing, installation, and connection of underground ducts and raceways, and precast manholes and pullboxes to form a complete underground electrical raceway system.
- B. The terms "duct" and "conduit" are used interchangeably in this section.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

- A. Section 07 92 00, JOINT SEALANTS: Sealing of conduit penetrations.
- B. Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS:  
Requirements that apply to all sections of Division 26.
- C. Section 26 05 26, GROUNDING AND BONDING FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS:  
Requirements for personnel safety and to provide a low impedance path for possible ground fault currents.
- D. Section 31 20 00, EARTHWORK: Trenching, backfill, and compaction.

**1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- A. Refer to Paragraph, QUALIFICATIONS (PRODUCTS AND SERVICES), in Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.
- B. Coordinate layout and installation of ducts, handholes, and pullboxes with final arrangement of other utilities, site grading, and surface features.

**1.4 SUBMITTALS**

- A. Submit six copies of the following in accordance with Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.
  - 1. Shop Drawings:
    - a. Submit sufficient information to demonstrate compliance with drawings and specifications.
    - b. Submit information on manholes, pullboxes, ducts, and hardware. Submit manhole plan and elevation drawings, showing openings, pulling irons, cable supports, cover, ladder, sump, and other accessories.
    - c. Proposed deviations from the drawings shall be clearly marked on the submittals. If it is necessary to locate manholes, pullboxes, or duct banks at locations other than shown on the drawings, show the proposed locations accurately on scaled site drawings, and submit to the COTR for approval prior to construction.

2. Certifications: Two weeks prior to the final inspection, submit the following.
  - a. Certification by the manufacturer that the materials conform to the requirements of the drawings and specifications.
  - b. Certification by the Contractor that the materials have been properly installed, connected, and tested.

**1.5 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS**

- A. Publications listed below (including amendments, addenda, revisions, supplements, and errata) form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. Publications are referenced in the text by designation only.
- B. American Concrete Institute (ACI):
  - Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete
  - 318-11/318M-11.....Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete & Commentary
  - SP-66-04.....ACI Detailing Manual
- C. American National Standards Institute (ANSI):
  - 77-10.....Underground Enclosure Integrity
- D. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA):
  - TC 2-03.....Electrical Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Conduit
  - TC 3-04.....Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Fittings for Use With Rigid PVC Conduit And Tubing
  - TC 6 & 8-03.....Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Plastic Utilities Duct For Underground Installations
  - TC 9-04.....Fittings For Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Plastic Utilities Duct For Underground Installation
- E. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
  - 70-14.....National Electrical Code (NEC)
  - 70E-12.....National Electrical Safety Code
- F. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL):
  - 6-07.....Electrical Rigid Metal Conduit-Steel
  - 467-07.....Grounding and Bonding Equipment
  - 651-11.....Schedule 40, 80, Type EB and A Rigid PVC Conduit and Fittings

**PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

**2.1 HANDHOLES (PULLBOXES)**

- A. General: Size as indicated on the drawings. Provide pullboxes with weatherproof, non-skid covers with recessed hook eyes, secured with

corrosion- and tamper-resistant hardware. Cover material shall be identical to pullbox material. Covers shall have molded lettering, ELECTRIC or SIGNAL as applicable. Pullboxes shall comply with the requirements of ANSI 77 Tier 15 loading. Provide pulling irons, 22 mm (0.875 inch) diameter galvanized steel bar with exposed triangular-shaped opening.

- B. Fiberglass Pullboxes: Shall be sheet-molded, fiberglass-reinforced, polyester resin enclosure joined to polymer concrete top ring or frame.

## **2.2 DUCTS**

- A. Number and sizes shall be as shown on the drawings.

- B. Ducts (concrete-encased):

1. Plastic Duct:

- a. UL 651 and 651A Schedule 40 PVC conduit.  
b. Duct shall be suitable for use with 90° C (194° F) rated conductors.

2. Conduit Spacers: Prefabricated plastic.

- C. Ducts (direct-burial):

1. Plastic duct:

- a. UL 651, Schedule 40 PVC.  
b. Duct shall be suitable for use with 75° C (167° F) rated conductors.

2. Rigid metal conduit: UL6 and NEMA RN1 galvanized rigid metal, half-lap wrapped with 10 mil PVC tape.

## **2.3 GROUNDING**

- A. Ground Rods and Ground Wire: Per Section 26 05 26, GROUNDING AND BONDING FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS.

## **2.4 WARNING TAPE**

- A. 4-mil polyethylene 75 mm (3 inches) wide detectable tape, red with black letters, imprinted with "CAUTION - BURIED ELECTRIC CABLE BELOW" or similar.

## **2.5 PULL ROPE FOR SPARE DUCTS**

- A. Plastic with 890 N (200 lb) minimum tensile strength.

## **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

### **3.1 HANDHOLE (PULLBOX) INSTALLATION**

- A. Assembly and installation shall be per the requirements of the manufacturer.

1. Install handholes (pullboxes) level and plumb.

- B. Access: Ensure the top of frames and covers are flush with finished grade.

### **3.2 TRENCHING**

- A. Refer to Section 31 20 00, EARTHWORK for trenching, backfilling, and compaction.
- B. Before performing trenching work at existing facilities, a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey shall be carefully performed by a certified technician to reveal all existing underground ducts, conduits, cables, and other utility systems.
- C. Work with extreme care near existing ducts, conduits, and other utilities to avoid damaging them.
- D. Cut the trenches neatly and uniformly.

### **3.3 DUCT INSTALLATION**

- A. General Requirements:
  - 1. Ducts shall be in accordance with the NEC, as shown on the drawings, and as specified.
  - 2. Join and terminate ducts with fittings recommended by the manufacturer.
  - 3. Slope ducts to drain towards handholes (pullboxes), and away from building and equipment entrances. Pitch not less than 100 mm (4 inch) in 30 M (100 feet).
  - 4. Stub-ups and sweeps to equipment mounted on outdoor concrete slabs shall be galvanized rigid metal conduit half-lap wrapped with PVC tape, and shall extend a minimum of 1.5 M (5 feet) away from the edge of slab.
  - 5. Radius for sweeps shall be sufficient to accomplish pulls without damage. Minimum radius shall be six times conduit diameter.
  - 6. All multiple conduit runs shall have conduit spacers. Spacers shall securely support and maintain uniform spacing of the duct assembly a minimum of 75 mm (3 inches) above the bottom of the trench during the concrete pour. Spacer spacing shall not exceed 1.5 M (5 feet). Secure spacers to ducts and earth to prevent floating during concrete pour. Provide nonferrous tie wires to prevent displacement of the ducts during concrete pour. Tie wires shall not act as substitute for spacers.
  - 7. Duct lines shall be installed no less than 300 mm (12 inches) from other utility systems, such as water, sewer, chilled water.
  - 8. Clearances between individual ducts:

- a. For similar services, not less than 75 mm (3 inches).
  - b. For power and signal services, not less than 150 mm (6 inches).
  9. Couple the ducts with proper couplings. Stagger couplings in rows and layers to ensure maximum strength and rigidity of the duct bank.
  10. Keep ducts clean of earth, sand, or gravel, and seal with tapered plugs upon completion of each portion of the work.
  11. Spare Ducts: Where spare ducts are shown, they shall have a nylon pull rope installed. They shall be capped at each end and labeled as to location of the other end.
  12. Duct Identification: Place continuous strip of warning tape approximately 300 mm (12 inches) above ducts before backfilling trenches. Warning tape shall be preprinted with proper identification.
- B. Connections to Existing Ducts: Where connections to existing ducts are indicated, excavate around the ducts as necessary. Cut off the ducts and remove loose concrete from inside before installing new ducts. Provide a reinforced-concrete collar, poured monolithically with the new ducts, to take the shear at the joint of the duct banks.
- C. Partially-Completed Ducts: During construction, wherever a construction joint is necessary in a duct bank, prevent debris such as mud and dirt from entering ducts by providing suitable plugs. Fit concrete envelope of a partially completed ducts with reinforcing steel extending a minimum of 600 mm (2 feet) back into the envelope and a minimum of 600 mm (2 feet) beyond the end of the envelope. Provide one No. 4 bar in each corner, 75 mm (3 inches) from the edge of the envelope. Secure corner bars with two No. 3 ties, spaced approximately 300 mm (12 inches) apart. Restrain reinforcing assembly from moving during pouring of concrete.

#### **3.4 ACCEPTANCE CHECKS AND TESTS**

- A. Duct Testing and Cleaning:
1. Upon completion of the duct installation, a standard flexible mandrel shall be pulled through each duct to loosen particles of earth, sand, or foreign material left in the duct, and to test for out-of-round conditions.
  2. The mandrel shall be not less than 300 mm (12 inches) long, and shall have a diameter not less than 13 mm (0.5 inch) less than the inside diameter of the duct. A brush with stiff bristles shall then be pulled through each duct to remove the loosened particles. The

- diameter of the brush shall be the same as, or slightly larger than, the diameter of the duct.
3. If testing reveals obstructions or out-of-round conditions, the Contractor shall replace affected section(s) of duct and retest to the satisfaction of the COTR at no cost to the Government.
  4. Mandrel pulls shall be witnessed by the COTR.

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