

**SECTION 26 05 13  
MEDIUM-VOLTAGE CABLES**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

- A. This section specifies the furnishing, installation, and connection of medium-voltage cables, indicated as cable or cables in this section, and medium-voltage cable splices and terminations.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

- A. Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS:  
Requirements that apply to all sections of Division 26.
- B. 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.
- C. Section 26 05 33, RACEWAY AND BOXES FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Conduits for medium-voltage cables.
- D. Section 26 11 16, SECONDARY UNIT SUBSTATIONS: Medium-voltage cable terminations for use in liquid-filled, medium-voltage substation transformers.

**1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- A. Refer to Paragraph, QUALIFICATIONS (PRODUCTS AND SERVICES) in Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

**1.4 FACTORY TESTS**

- A. Medium-voltage cables shall be thoroughly tested at the factory per NEMA WC 74 to ensure that there are no electrical defects. Factory tests shall be certified.

**1.5 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 the following data for approval:
      - 1) Complete electrical ratings.
      - 2) Installation instructions.
  2. Samples:
    - a. After approval and prior to installation, furnish the COR with a sample of each type and size of cable per the requirements of Section 25 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

3. Certifications:

- a. Factory Test Reports: Submit certified factory production test reports for approval.
- b. Field Test Reports: Submit field test reports for approval.
- c. Compatibility: Submit a certificate from the cable manufacturer that the splices and terminations are approved for use with the cable.
- d. Two weeks prior to final inspection, submit the following.
  - 1) Certification by the manufacturer that the cables, splices, and terminations conform to the requirements of the drawings and specifications.
  - 2) Certification by the Contractor that the cables, splices, and terminations have been properly installed and tested.
  - 3) Certification by the Contractor that each splice and each termination were completely installed in a single continuous work period by a single qualified worker without any overnight interruption.

4. Qualified Worker Approval:

- a. Qualified workers who install and test cables, splices, and terminations shall have not fewer than five years of experience splicing and terminating cables equivalent to those being spliced and terminated, including experience with the materials in the approved splices and terminations.
- b. Furnish satisfactory proof of such experience for each qualified worker who splices or terminates the cables.

**1.6 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 Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):  
B3-01 (2007).....Standard Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire
- C. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE):  
48-09.....Test Procedures and Requirements for Alternating-Current Cable Terminations Used on Shielded Cables Having Laminated Insulation

- Rated 2.5 kV through 765 kV or Extruded  
Insulation Rated 2.5 kV through 500 kV
- 386-95.....Separable Insulated Connector Systems for Power  
Distribution Systems above 600 V
- 400-01.....Guide for Field Testing and Evaluation of the  
Insulation of Shielded Power Cable Systems
- 400.2-04.....Guide for Field Testing of Shielded Power Cable  
Systems Using Very Low Frequency (VLF)
- 400.3-06.....Guide for Partial Discharge Testing of Shielded  
Power Cable Systems in a Field Environment
- 404-00.....Extruded and Laminated Dielectric Shielded  
Cable Joints Rated 2500 V to 500,000 V
- D. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA):
- WC 71-99.....Non-Shielded Cables Rated 2001-5000 Volts for  
Use in the Distribution of Electric Energy
- WC 74-06.....5-46 KV Shielded Power Cable for Use in the  
Transmission and Distribution of Electric  
Energy
- E. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
- 70-14.....National Electrical Code (NEC)
- F. Underwriters Laboratories (UL):
- 1072-06 .....Medium-Voltage Power Cables

## **1.7 SHIPMENT AND STORAGE**

- A. Cable shall be shipped on reels such that it is protected from mechanical injury. Each end of each length of cable shall be hermetically sealed with manufacturer's end caps and securely attached to the reel.
- B. Cable stored and/or cut on site shall have the ends turned down, and sealed with cable manufacturer's standard cable end seals, or field-installed heat-shrink cable end seals.

## **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

### **2.1 CABLE**

- A. Cable shall be in accordance with the NEC and NEMA WC 71, WC 74, and UL 1072.
- B. Single conductor stranded copper conforming to ASTM B3.
- C. Voltage Rating:
1. 15,000 V cable shall be used on all distribution systems with voltages ranging from 5,000 V to 15,000 V.

## D. Insulation:

1. Insulation level shall be 133%.

2. Types of insulation:

- a. Cable type abbreviation, EPR: Ethylene propylene rubber insulation shall be thermosetting, light and heat stabilized.
- b. Cable type abbreviation, XLP or XLPE: cross-linked polyethylene insulation shall be thermosetting, light and heat stabilized, and chemically cross-linked.

E. Insulation shield shall be semi-conducting. Conductor shield shall be semi-conducting.

F. Insulation shall be wrapped with copper shielding tape, helically-applied over semi-conducting insulation shield.

G. Heavy duty, overall protective polyvinyl chloride jacket shall enclose every cable. The manufacturer's name, cable type and size, and other pertinent information shall be marked or molded clearly on the overall protective jacket.

H. Cable temperature ratings for continuous operation, emergency overload operation, and short circuit operation shall be not less than the NEC, NEMA WC 71, or NEMA WC 74 standard for the respective cable.

## 2.2 SPLICES AND TERMINATIONS

A. Materials shall be compatible with the cables being spliced and terminated, and shall be suitable for the prevailing environmental conditions.

B. In locations where moisture might be present, the splices shall be watertight. In manholes and pullboxes, the splices shall be submersible.

## C. Splices:

1. Shall comply with IEEE 404. Include all components required for complete splice, with detailed instructions.

## D. Terminations:

1. Shall comply with IEEE 48. Include shield ground strap for shielded cable terminations.
2. Load-break terminations for indoor and outdoor use: 200 A load break premolded rubber elbow connectors with bushing inserts, suitable for submersible applications. Separable connectors shall comply with the requirements of IEEE 386, and shall be interchangeable between suppliers. Allow sufficient slack in medium-voltage cable, ground,

and drain wires to permit elbow connectors to be moved to their respective parking stands.

3. Ground metallic cable shields with a device designed for that purpose, consisting of a solderless connector enclosed in watertight rubber housing covering the entire assembly.
4. Provide insulated cable supports to relieve any strain imposed by cable weight or movement. Ground cable supports to the grounding system.

### **2.3 FIREPROOFING TAPE**

- A. Fireproofing tape shall be flexible, non-corrosive, self-extinguishing, arcproof, and fireproof intumescent elastomer. Securing tape shall be glass cloth electrical tape not less than 0.18 mm (7 mils) thick, and 19 mm (0.75 inch) wide.

## **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

### **3.1 GENERAL**

- A. Installation shall be in accordance with the NEC, as shown on the drawings, and per manufacturer's instructions.
- B. Cable shall be installed in conduit above grade and duct bank below grade.
- C. All cables of a feeder shall be pulled simultaneously.
- D. Conductors of different systems (e.g., 5kV and 15kV) shall not be installed in the same raceway.
- E. Splice the cables only in manholes and pullboxes.
- F. Ground shields in accordance with Section 26 05 26, GROUNDING AND BONDING FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS.
- G. Cable maximum pull length, maximum pulling tension, and minimum bend radius shall conform with the recommendations of the manufacturer.
- H. Use suitable lubricating compounds on the cables to prevent pulling damage. Provide compounds that are not injurious to the cable jacket and do not harden or become adhesive.
- I. Seal the cable ends prior to pulling, to prevent the entry of moisture or lubricant.

### **3.2 PROTECTION DURING SPLICING OPERATIONS**

- A. Blowers shall be provided to force fresh air into manholes where free movement or circulation of air is obstructed. Waterproof protective coverings shall be available on the work site to provide protection against moisture while a splice is being made. Pumps shall be used to keep manholes dry during splicing operations. Under no conditions shall

a splice or termination be made that exposes the interior of a cable to moisture. A manhole ring at least 150 mm (6 inches) above ground shall be used around the manhole entrance to keep surface water from entering the manhole. Unused ducts shall be plugged and water seepage through ducts in use shall be stopped before splicing.

### **3.3 PULLING CABLES IN DUCTS**

- A. Cables shall be pulled into ducts with equipment designed for this purpose, including power-driven winches, cable-feeding flexible tube guides, cable grips, pulling eyes, and lubricants. A sufficient number of qualified workers and equipment shall be employed to ensure the careful and proper installation of the cable.
- B. Cable shall be unreeled from the top of the reel. Pay-out shall be carefully controlled. Cables to be pulled shall be attached through a swivel to the main pulling wire by means of a suitable cable grip and pulling eye.
- C. Woven-wire cable grips shall be used to grip the cable end when pulling small cables and short straight lengths of heavier cables.
- D. Pulling eyes shall be attached to the cable conductors to prevent damage to the cable structure.
- E. Cables shall be liberally coated with a suitable lubricant as they enter the tube guide or duct. Rollers, sheaves, or tube guides around which the cable is pulled shall conform to the minimum bending radius of the cable.
- F. Cables shall be pulled into ducts at a reasonable speed. Cable pulling using a vehicle shall not be permitted. Pulling operations shall be stopped immediately at any indication of binding or obstruction, and shall not be resumed until the potential for damage to the cable is corrected. Sufficient slack shall be provided for free movement of cable due to expansion or contraction.
- G. Splices in manholes shall be firmly supported on cable racks. Cable ends shall overlap at the ends of a section to provide sufficient undamaged cable for splicing.
- H. Cables cut in the field shall have the cut ends immediately sealed to prevent entrance of moisture.

### **3.4 SPLICES AND TERMINATIONS**

- A. Install the materials as recommended by the manufacturer, including precautions pertaining to air temperature and humidity during installation.

- B. Installation shall be accomplished by qualified workers trained to perform medium-voltage equipment installations. Use tools as recommended or provided by the manufacturer. All manufacturer's instructions shall be followed.
- C. Splices in manholes shall be located midway between cable racks on walls of manholes, and supported with cable arms at approximately the same elevation as the enclosing duct.
- D. Where the Government determines that unsatisfactory splices and terminations have been installed, the Contractor shall replace the unsatisfactory splices and terminations with approved material at no additional cost to the Government.

### **3.5 FIREPROOFING**

- A. Cover all cable segments exposed in manholes and pullboxes with fireproofing tape.
- B. Apply the tape in a single layer, wrapped in a half-lap manner, or as recommended by the manufacturer. Extend the tape not less than 25 mm (1 inch) into each duct.
- C. At each end of a taped cable section, secure the fireproof tape in place with glass cloth tape.

### **3.6 CIRCUIT IDENTIFICATION OF FEEDERS**

- A. In each pullbox, install permanent identification tags on each circuit's cables to clearly designate the circuit identification and voltage. The tags shall be the embossed brass type, 40 mm (1.5 inches) in diameter and 40 mils thick. Attach tags with plastic ties. Position the tags so they will be easy to read after the fireproofing tape is installed.

### **3.7 ACCEPTANCE CHECKS AND TESTS**

- A. Perform tests in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Include the following visual and electrical inspections.
- B. Test equipment, labor, and technical personnel shall be provided as necessary to perform the acceptance tests. Arrangements shall be made to have tests witnessed by the COR.
- C. Visual Inspection:
  - 1. Inspect exposed sections of cables for physical damage.
  - 2. Inspect shield grounding, cable supports, splices, and terminations.
  - 3. Verify that visible cable bends meet manufacturer's minimum bending radius requirement.
  - 4. Verify installation of fireproofing tape and identification tags.

D. Electrical Tests:

1. Acceptance tests shall be performed on new and service-aged cables as specified herein.
2. Test new cable after installation, splices, and terminations have been made, but before connection to equipment and existing cable.

E. Service-Aged Cable Tests:

1. Maintenance tests shall be performed on service-aged cable interconnected to new cable.
2. After new cable test and connection to an existing cable, test the interconnected cable. Disconnect cable from all equipment that could be damaged by the test.

F. Insulation-Resistance Test: Test all new and service-aged cables with respect to ground and adjacent conductors.

1. Test data shall include megohm readings and leakage current readings. Cables shall not be energized until insulation-resistance test results have been approved by the COR. Test voltages and minimum acceptable resistance values shall be:

<u>Voltage Class</u>	<u>Test Voltage</u>	<u>Min. Insulation Resistance</u>
5kV	2,500 VDC	1,000 megohms
15kV	2,500 VDC	5,000 megohms
25kV	5,000 VDC	20,000 megohms
35kV	15,000 VDC	100,000 megohms

2. Submit a field test report to the COR that describes the identification and location of cables tested, the test equipment used, and the date tests were performed; identifies the persons who performed the tests; and identifies the insulation resistance and leakage current results for each cable section tested. The report shall provide conclusions and recommendations for corrective action.

G. Online Partial Discharge Test: Comply with IEEE 400 and 400.3. Test all new and service-aged cables. Perform tests after cables have passed the insulation-resistance test, and after successful energization.

1. Testing shall use a time or frequency domain detection process, incorporating radio frequency current transformer sensors with a partial discharge detection range of 10 kHz to 300 MHz.
2. Submit a field test report to the COR that describes the identification and location of cables tested, the test equipment used, and the date tests were performed; identifies the persons who performed the tests; and numerically and graphically identifies the



magnitude of partial discharge detected for each cable section tested. The report shall provide conclusions and recommendations for corrective action.

- H. Final Acceptance: Final acceptance shall depend upon the satisfactory performance of the cables under test. No cable shall be put into service until all tests are successfully passed, and field test reports have been approved by the COR.

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