

**SECTION 26 05 13  
MEDIUM VOLTAGE CABLES**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

This section specifies the furnishing, installation, and connection of medium voltage cables, splices, and terminations.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

- A. Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS: General electrical requirement and items that are common to more than one section 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 05 41, UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION: Manholes and ducts for medium voltage cables.
- E. Section 31 20 00, EARTH MOVING: Bedding of conduits.

**1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Refer to Paragraph, QUALIFICATIONS, in Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

**1.4 FACTORY TESTS**

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. In accordance with Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS, submit the following:
- B. Shop Drawings:
  - 1. Clearly present sufficient information to determine compliance with drawings and specifications.
  - 2. Include product and installation information for cables, splices, terminations, and fireproofing tape.
- C. Samples: After approval and prior to installation, furnish the Resident Engineer with a minimum 12 in [300 mm] length of each type and size of cable, along with the tag from the reel from which the sample was taken. The sample shall contain the manufacturer's markings, showing all cable jacket information.

D. Certifications:

1. Factory Test Reports: Prior to installation of the cables, deliver four copies of the manufacturers certified NEMA WC 71 or WC 74 standard factory test reports to the Resident Engineer. Certified copies of test data shall show conformance with the referenced standards and shall be approved prior to delivery of cable.
2. Compatibility: Provide certification from the cable manufacturer that the splices and terminations are approved for use with the cable.
3. Field Test Reports: Test reports shall comply with the paragraph entitled "Acceptance Checks and Tests." After testing, submit four certified copies to the Resident Engineer of each of the graphs specified under field testing.
4. After splices and terminations have been installed and tested, deliver four copies of a certificate by the contractor to the Resident Engineer which includes the following:
  - a. A statement that the materials, detail drawings, and printed instructions used are those contained in the kits approved for this contract.
  - b. A statement that each splice and each termination was completely installed in a single continuous work period by a single qualified worker without any overnight interruption.
  - c. A statement that field-made splices and terminations conform to the following requirements:
    - 1) Pencil the cable insulation precisely.
    - 2) Connector installations:
      - a) Use tools that are designed for the connectors being installed.
      - b) Round and smooth the installed connectors to minimize localized voltage stressing of the insulating materials.
    - 3) Remove contaminants from all surfaces within the splices and terminations before installing the insulating materials.
    - 4) Solder block throughout stranded grounding wires that might penetrate the splicing and terminating materials.
    - 5) Use mirrors to observe the installation of materials on the backsides of the splices and terminations.
    - 6) Eliminate air voids throughout the splices and terminations.
    - 7) Stretch each layer of tape properly during installation.

- d. List all the materials purchased and installed for the splices and terminations for this contract, including the material descriptions, manufacturers' names, catalog numbers, and total quantities.
- E. Installer Approval:
  - 1. Employees who install splices and terminations and test the cables 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 kits.
  - 2. Furnish satisfactory proof of such experience for each employee 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:
  - American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):
    - B3-01 (R2007).....Standard Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire
- B. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE):
  - 386-95 (R2001).....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
  - 400.2-05.....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 2500-500,000 Volts
- C. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA):
  - WC 71-99.....Standard for Non-Shielded Cables Rated 2001-5000 Volts for Use in the Distribution of Electrical Energy (ICEA S-96-659)
  - WC 74-06.....5-46 KV Shielded Power Cable for Use in the Transmission and Distribution of Electrical Energy (ICEA S-93-969)
- D. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

70-08.....National Electrical Code (NEC)

E. 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 MEDIUM VOLTAGE CABLE**

- A. Medium voltage 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:  
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, CCLP: Polyethylene insulation shall be thermosetting, light and heat stabilized, and chemically cross-linked.
    - c. In wet locations, anti-tree CCLP or EPR shall be used.
    - d. Cable type abbreviation, XLPE: cross-linked polyethylene insulated shielded shall be thermosetting, light and heat stabilized and chemically cross-linked.
- E. Conductors and insulation shall be wrapped separately with semi-conducting tape.
- F. Insulation shall be wrapped with non-magnetic, metallic shielding tape, helically-applied over semi-conducting insulation shield.
- G. Heavy duty, overall protective jacket of chlorosulphonated polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride 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. The materials shall be compatible with the cables.
- B. In locations where moisture might be present, the splices shall be watertight. In manholes and handholes, the splices shall be submersible.
- C. 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.
- D. Splices and Terminations:
  - 1. Materials shall be designed for the cables being spliced and terminated, and shall be suitable for the prevailing environmental conditions.
  - 2. Splices:
    - a. Shall comply with IEEE 404. Include all components required for complete splice, with detailed instructions.
    - b. Heat-shrink splice: Uniform cross-section, polymeric splicing kit with outer heat-shrink jacket.
  - 3. Terminations:
    - a. Shall comply with IEEE 48. Include shield ground strap for shielded cable terminations.
    - b. Load-break terminations for indoor and outdoor use: Elbow-type unit with test point and 200-A load make/break and continuous-current rating.

## **2.3 FIREPROOFING TAPE**

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 7 mils [0.18 mm] thick, and 0.75 in [19 mm] wide.

## **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

### **3.1 GENERAL**

- A. Installation shall be in accordance with the NEC, as shown on the drawings, and per cable manufacturer's instructions.

- B. Cable shall be installed in conduit above grade and duct bank below grade. All cables of a feeder shall be pulled simultaneously.
- C. Splice the cables only in manholes and accessible pullboxes.
- D. Ground shields in accordance with Section 26 05 26, GROUNDING AND BONDING FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS.
- E. Cable maximum pull length, maximum pulling tension, and minimum bend radius shall conform with the recommendations of the cable manufacturer.
- F. 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.
- G. Seal the cable ends prior to pulling, to prevent the entry of moisture or lubricant.

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

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 6 in [150 mm] 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 AND MANHOLES**

- 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 trained personnel and equipment shall be employed to ensure the careful and proper installation of the cable.
- B. Cable reels shall be set up at the side of the manhole opening and above the duct or hatch level, allowing cables to enter through the opening without reverse bending. Flexible tube guides shall be installed through the opening in a manner that will prevent cables from rubbing on the edges of any structural member.
- C. 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.

- D. Woven-wire cable grips shall be used to grip the cable end when pulling small cables and short straight lengths of heavier cables.
- E. Pulling eyes shall be attached to the cable conductors to prevent damage to the cable structure.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. Splices in manholes shall be firmly supported on cable racks. No splices shall be pulled in ducts. Cable ends shall overlap at the ends of a section to provide sufficient undamaged cable for splicing.
- I. 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 personnel trained to accomplish medium voltage equipment installations. All manufacturer's instructions shall be followed precisely.
- 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.

#### **3.5 FIREPROOFING**

- A. Cover all cable segments exposed in manholes and pull-boxes 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 1 in [25 mm] 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**

In each manhole and pullbox, install permanent tags on each circuit's cables to clearly designate the circuit identification and voltage. The tags shall be the embossed brass type, 1.5 in [40 mm] 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 and labor and technical personnel shall be provided as necessary to perform the acceptance tests. Arrangements shall be made to have tests witnessed by the Resident Engineer.
- 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 published bending radius.
  - 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. Cable shall not be energized until insulation-resistance test results have been approved by the Resident Engineer. 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. Provide a comprehensive report 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. Provide a comprehensive report 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 energized until recorded test data have been approved by the Resident Engineer. Final test reports shall be provided to the Resident Engineer.

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