

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

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

- A. This section specifies the furnishing, installation, and connection of ductbanks.
- B. "Duct" and "conduit," and "rigid metal conduit" and "rigid steel conduit" are used interchangeably in this specification.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

- A. Section 07 92 00, JOINT SEALANTS: Sealing of conduit penetrations.
- B. Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS: General electrical requirements and items that are common to more than one section 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 26 05 33, RACEWAY AND BOXES FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Conduits, fittings and boxes for raceway systems.
- E. Section 31 20 00, Trenching, backfill and compaction.

**1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- A. Refer to Paragraph, QUALIFICATIONS, in Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.
- B. Coordinate layout and installation of ducts, and pull-boxes with final arrangement of other utilities, site grading, and surface features, as determined in the field.

**1.4 SUBMITTALS**

- A. Submit in accordance with Section 26 05 11, REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.
- B. Shop Drawings:
  - 1. Clearly present sufficient information to determine compliance with drawings and specifications.
  - 2. Include duct materials, and hardware. Submit plan and elevation drawings, all information and supports, accessories and details.
  - 3. Proposed deviations from details on the drawings shall be clearly marked on the submittals. If it is necessary to locate manholes or pullboxes at locations other than shown on the drawings, show the proposed locations accurately on scaled site drawings, and submit

four copies to the Resident Engineer for approval prior to construction.

- C. Certifications: Two weeks prior to the final inspection, submit four copies of the following certifications to the Resident Engineer:
1. Certification by the manufacturer that the materials conform to the requirements of the drawings and specifications.
  2. 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  
318/318M-05.....Building Code Requirements for Structural  
Concrete & Commentary  
SP-66-04.....ACI Detailing Manual
- C. American National Standards Institute (ANSI):
- 77-07.....Underground Enclosure Integrity
- D. Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE):
- C2-07 .....National Electrical Safety Code
- E. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA):
- TC 2-03.....Electrical Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Tubing And  
Conduit  
TC 3-2004.....PVC Fittings for Use With Rigid PVC Conduit And  
Tubing  
TC 6 & 8 2003.....PVC Plastic Utilities Duct For Underground  
Installations  
TC 9-2004.....Fittings For PVC Plastic Utilities Duct For  
Underground Installation
- F. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
- 70-08.....National Electrical Code (NEC)
- G. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL):
- 6-07.....Electrical Rigid Metal Conduit-Steel  
467-07.....Grounding and Bonding Equipment  
651-05.....Schedule 40 and 80 Rigid PVC Conduit and  
Fittings

651A-00.....Type EB and A Rigid PVC Conduit and HDPE  
Conduit

651B-07.....Continuous Length HDPE Conduit

## **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

### **2.1 DUCTS**

- A. Number and sizes shall be as shown on drawings.
- B. Ducts (concrete-encased):
  - 1. Plastic Duct:
    - a. NEMA TC6 & 8 and TC9 plastic utilities duct UL 651 and 651A Schedule 40 PVC.
    - b. Duct shall be suitable for use with 194° F [90° C] rated conductors.
  - 2. Conduit Spacers: Prefabricated plastic.
- C. Ducts (direct-burial):
  - 1. Plastic duct:
    - a. NEMA TC2 and TC3
    - b. UL 651, 651A, and 651B, Schedule 80 PVC or HDPE.
    - c. Duct shall be suitable for use with 167° F [75° C] rated conductors.
  - 2. Rigid metal conduit: UL6 and NEMA RN1 galvanized rigid steel, threaded type, half-lapped with 10 mil PVC tape.

### **2.2 GROUNDING**

- A. Rods: Per Section 26 05 26, GROUNDING AND BONDING FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS.
- B. Ground Wire: Stranded bare copper 6 AWG [16 mm<sup>2</sup>] minimum.

### **2.3 WARNING TAPE**

Standard 4-mil polyethylene 3 in [76 mm] wide detectable tape, red with black letters, imprinted with "CAUTION - BURIED ELECTRIC CABLE BELOW" or similar.

### **2.4 PULL ROPE FOR SPARE DUCTS**

Plastic with 200 lb [890 N] minimum tensile strength.

## **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

### **3.1 TRENCHING**

- A. Refer to Section 31 20 00, EARTH MOVING for trenching, backfilling, and compaction.
- B. Before performing trenching work at existing facilities, the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey shall be carefully performed by certified

technician to reveal all existing underground ducts, conduits, cables, and other utility systems.

- C. Work with extreme care near existing ducts, conduits, cables, and other utilities to avoid damaging them.
- D. Cut the trenches neatly and uniformly.
- E. For Concrete-Encased Ducts:
  - 1. After excavation of the trench, stakes shall be driven in the bottom of the trench at 4 ft [1.2 M] intervals to establish the grade and route of the duct bank.
  - 2. Pitch the trenches uniformly toward manholes or both ways from high points between manholes for the required duct line drainage. Avoid pitching the ducts toward buildings wherever possible.
  - 3. The walls of the trench may be used to form the side walls of the duct bank, provided that the soil is self-supporting and that concrete envelope can be poured without soil inclusions. Forms are required where the soil is not self-supporting.
  - 4. After the concrete-encased duct has sufficiently cured, the trench shall be backfilled to grade with earth, and appropriate warning tape installed.
- F. Conduits to be installed under existing paved areas and roads that cannot be disturbed shall be jacked into place. Conduits shall be heavy wall rigid steel.

### **3.2 DUCT INSTALLATION**

- A. General Requirements:
  - 1. Ducts shall be in accordance with the NEC and IEEE C2, as shown on the drawings, and as specified.
  - 2. Slope ducts to drain towards manholes and pullboxes, and away from building and equipment entrances. Pitch not less than 4 in [100 mm] in 100 ft [30 M].
  - 3. Underground conduit stub-ups and sweeps to equipment inside of buildings shall be taped galvanized rigid steel, and shall extend a minimum of 5 ft [1.5 M] outside the building foundation. Tops of conduits below building slab shall be minimum 24 in [610 mm] below bottom of slab.
  - 4. Stub-ups, sweeps, and risers to equipment mounted on outdoor concrete slabs shall be taped galvanized rigid steel, and shall extend a minimum of 5 ft [1.5 M] away from the edge of slab.
  - 5. Install insulated grounding bushings on the terminations.

6. Radius for turns of direction shall be sufficient to accomplish pulls without damage. Minimum radius shall be six times conduit diameter. Use manufactured long sweep bends.
  7. Additional burial depth shall be required in order to accomplish NEC-required minimum bend radius of ducts.
  8. All multiple conduit runs shall have conduit spacers. Spacers shall securely support and maintain uniform spacing of the duct assembly a minimum of 3 in [75 mm] above the bottom of the trench during the concrete pour. Spacer spacing shall not exceed 5 ft [1.5 M]. Secure spacers to ducts and earth to prevent floating during concrete pour. Provide nonferrous tie wires to prevent displacement of the ducts during pouring of concrete. Tie wires shall not act as substitute for spacers.
  9. Duct lines shall be installed no less than 12 in [300 mm] from other utility systems, such as water, sewer, and chilled water.
  10. Clearances between individual ducts:
    - a. For like services, not less than 3 in [75 mm].
    - b. For power and signal services, not less than 6 in [150 mm].
  11. Duct lines shall terminate at window openings in manhole walls as shown on the drawings. All ducts shall be fitted with end bells.
  12. Couple the ducts with proper couplings. Stagger couplings in rows and layers to ensure maximum strength and rigidity of the duct bank.
  13. Keep ducts clean of earth, sand, or gravel, and seal with tapered plugs upon completion of each portion of the work.
  14. Seal conduits, including spare conduits, at building entrances and at outdoor equipment terminations with a suitable compound to prevent entrance of moisture and gases.
- B. Concrete-Encased Ducts and Conduits:
1. Install concrete-encased ducts for medium-voltage systems, low-voltage systems, and signal systems, unless otherwise shown on the drawings.
  2. Duct lines shall consist of single or multiple duct assemblies encased in concrete. Ducts shall be uniform in size and material throughout the installation.
  3. Tops of concrete-encased ducts shall be:
    - a. Not less than 24 in [600 mm] and not less than shown on the drawings, below finished grade.

- b. Not less than 30 in [750 mm] and not less than shown on the drawings, below roads and other paved surfaces.
  - c. Conduits crossing under grade slab construction joints shall be installed a minimum of 4 ft [1.2 M] below slab.
- 4. Extend the concrete envelope encasing the ducts not less than 3 in [75 mm] beyond the outside walls of the outer ducts and conduits.
- 5. Within 10 ft [3 M] of building manhole and pullbox wall penetrations, install reinforcing steel bars at the top and bottom of each concrete envelope to provide protection against vertical shearing.
- 6. Install reinforcing steel bars at the top and bottom of each concrete envelope of all ducts underneath roadways and parking areas.
- 7. Where new ducts, conduits, and concrete envelopes are to be joined to existing manholes, pullboxes, ducts, conduits, and concrete envelopes, make the joints with the proper fittings and fabricate the concrete envelopes to ensure smooth durable transitions.
- 8. Conduit joints in concrete may be placed side by side horizontally, but shall be staggered at least 6 in [150 mm] vertically.
- 9. Pour each run of concrete envelope between manholes or other terminations in one continuous pour. If more than one pour is necessary, terminate each pour in a vertical plane and install 0.75 in [19 mm] reinforcing rod dowels extending 18 in [450 mm] into concrete on both sides of joint near corners of envelope.
- 10. Pour concrete so that open spaces are uniformly filled. Do not agitate with power equipment unless approved by Resident Engineer.
- 11. Duct Bank Markers:
  - a. Duct bank markers, where required, shall be located at the ends of duct banks except at manholes or pullboxes at approximately every 200 ft [60 M] along the duct run and at each change in direction of the duct run. Markers shall be placed 2 ft [0.6 M] to the right of the duct bank, facing the longitudinal axis of the run in the direction of the electrical load.
  - b. The letter "D" with two arrows shall be impressed or cast on top of the marker. One arrow shall be located below the letter and shall point toward the ducts. The second arrow shall be located adjacent to the letter and shall point in a direction parallel to the ducts. The letter and arrow adjacent to it shall each be

approximately 2 in [75 mm] long. The letter and arrows shall be V-shaped, and shall have a width of stroke at least 0.75 in [6 mm] at the top and a depth of 0.25 in [6 mm].

- c. In paved areas, the top of the duct markers shall be flush with the finished surface of the paving.
- d. Where the duct bank changes direction, the arrow located adjacent to the letter shall be cast or impressed with an angle in the arrow equivalent to the angular change of the duct bank.

C. Direct-Burial Duct and Conduits:

- 1. Install direct-burial ducts and conduits only where shown on the drawings. Provide direct-burial ducts only for low-voltage systems.
- 2. Join and terminate ducts and conduits with fittings recommended by the conduit manufacturer.
- 3. Tops of ducts and conduits shall be:
  - a. Not less than 24 in [600 mm] and not less than shown on the drawings, below finished grade.
  - b. Not less than 30 in [750 mm] and not less than shown on the drawings, below roads and other paved surfaces.
- 4. Do not kink the ducts or conduits. Compaction shall not deform the ducts.

D. Concrete-Encased and Direct-Burial Duct and Conduit Identification:

Place continuous strip of warning tape approximately 12 in [300 mm] above ducts or conduits before backfilling trenches. Warning tape shall be preprinted with proper identification.

- E. Spare Ducts and Conduits: 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.

F. Duct and Conduit 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. The mandrel shall be not less than 12 in [3600 mm] long, and shall have a diameter not less than 0.5 in [13 mm] 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.
- 2. Mandrel pulls shall be witnessed by the Resident Engineer.

- G. Duct and Conduit Sealing: Seal the ducts and conduits at building entrances, and at outdoor terminations for equipment, with a suitable non-hardening compound to prevent the entrance of moisture and gases.
- H. Connections to Existing Manholes: For duct connections to existing manholes, break the structure wall out to the dimensions required and preserve the steel in the structure wall. Cut steel and extend into the duct bank envelope. Chip the perimeter surface of the duct bank opening to form a key or flared surface, providing a positive connection with the duct bank envelope.
- I. Partially-Completed Duct Banks: 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 conduit plugs. Fit concrete envelope of a partially completed duct bank with reinforcing steel extending a minimum of 2 ft [0.6 M] back into the envelope and a minimum of 2 ft [0.6 M] beyond the end of the envelope. Provide one No. 4 bar in each corner, 3 in [75 mm] from the edge of the envelope. Secure corner bars with two No. 3 ties, spaced approximately 12 in [300 mm] apart. Restrain reinforcing assembly from moving during pouring of concrete.

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