

**SECTION 26 05 41  
UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.01 DESCRIPTION**

- A. This section specifies the furnishing, installation, and connection of precast manholes and pullboxes with ducts to form a complete underground raceway system.
- B. "Duct" and "conduit," and "rigid metal conduit" and "rigid steel conduit" are used interchangeably in this specification.

**1.02 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.

**1.03 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

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

**1.04 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 manholes, pullboxes, duct materials, and hardware. Submit plan and elevation drawings, showing openings, pulling irons, cable supports, cover, ladder, sump, and other 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 CONTRACTING OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIVE for approval prior to construction.

- C. Certifications: Two weeks prior to the final inspection, submit four copies of the following certifications to the CONTRACTING OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIVE:
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.

#### **1.05 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. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):  
C478-09 ..... Standard Specification for Precast Reinforced Concrete Manhole  
Sections  
C858-09 ..... Underground Precast Concrete Utility Structures  
C990-09 ..... Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe, Manholes  
and Precast Box Sections Using Preformed Flexible Joint  
Sealants.
- E. Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE):  
C2-07 ..... National Electrical Safety Code
- F. 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
- G. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- 70-08 ..... National Electrical Code (NEC)
- H. 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
- I. U.S. General Services Administration (GSA):
  - A-A-60005-1998 ..... Frames, Covers, Gratings, Steps, Sump and Catch Basin, Manhole

## **1.06 STORAGE**

Lift and support pre-cast concrete structures only at designated lifting or supporting points.

## **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

### **2.01 PRE-CAST CONCRETE MANHOLES AND HARDWARE**

- A. Structure: Factory-fabricated, reinforced-concrete, monolithically-poured walls and bottom. Frame and cover shall form top of manhole. Comply with ASTM C 858.
- B. Cable Supports:
  - 1. Cable stanchions shall be hot-rolled, heavy duty, hot-dipped galvanized "T" section steel, 2.25 in [56 mm] x 0.25 in [6 mm] in size, and punched with 14 holes on 1.5 in [38 mm] centers for attaching cable arms.
  - 2. Cable arms shall be 0.1875 in [5 mm] gauge, hot-rolled, hot-dipped galvanized sheet steel, pressed to channel shape. Arms shall be approximately 2.5 in [63 mm] wide x 14 in [350 mm] long.
  - 3. Insulators for cable supports shall be high-glazed, wet process porcelain, and shall completely encircle the cable.
  - 4. Equip each cable stanchion with two spare cable arms and six spare insulators for future use.
- C. Ground Rod Sleeve: Provide a 3 in [75 mm] PVC sleeve in manhole floors so that a driven ground rod may be installed.

### **2.02 PULLBOXES**

- A. General: Size as indicated on 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/SCTE 77 loading. Provide pulling irons, 0.875 in [22 mm] diameter galvanized steel bar with exposed triangular-shaped opening.

- B. Concrete Pullboxes: Shall be monolithically-poured reinforced concrete.

## **2.03 DUCTS**

- A. Number and sizes shall be as shown on drawings.
- B. Ducts (concrete-encased):
1. Plastic Duct:
    - a. 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 40 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.

## **2.04 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.

## **2.05 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.

## **2.06 PULL ROPE FOR SPARE DUCTS**

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

# **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

## **3.01 MANHOLE AND PULLBOX INSTALLATION**

- A. Assembly and installation shall follow the printed instructions and recommendations of the manufacturer. Install manholes and pullboxes level and plumb.
1. Units shall be installed on a 12 in [300 mm] level bed of 90% compacted granular fill, well-graded from the 1 in [25 mm] sieve to the No. 4 sieve. Granular fill shall be compacted with a minimum of four passes with a plate compactor.
  2. Seal duct terminations so they are watertight.
- B. Access: Ensure the top of frames and covers are flush with finished grade.

- C. Ground Rods in Manholes: Drive a ground rod into the earth, through the floor sleeve, after the manhole is set in place. Fill the sleeve with sealant to make a watertight seal. Rods shall protrude approximately 4 in [100 mm] above the manhole floor.
- D. Grounding in Manholes:
  - 1. Install a No. 3/0 AWG [95 mm<sup>2</sup>] bare copper ring grounding conductor around the inside perimeter of the manhole and anchor to the walls with metallic cable clips.
  - 2. Connect the ring grounding conductor to the ground rod by an exothermic welding process.
  - 3. Bond the ring grounding conductor to the duct bank equipment grounding conductors, the exposed non-current carrying metal parts of racks, sump covers, and like items in the manholes with a minimum No. 6 AWG [16 mm<sup>2</sup>] bare copper jumper.

### 3.02 TRENCHING

- A. Refer to 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.

### 3.03 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. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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 CONTRACTING OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
- E. 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.
- F. Connections to Manholes: Ducts connecting to manholes shall be flared to have an enlarged cross-section to provide additional shear strength. Dimensions of the flared cross-section shall be larger than the corresponding manhole opening dimensions by no less than 12 in [300 mm] in each direction. Perimeter of the duct bank opening in the underground structure shall be flared toward the inside or keyed to provide a positive interlock between the duct and the wall of the manhole. Use vibrators when this portion of the encasement is poured to ensure a seal between the envelope and the wall of the structure.
- G. 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.

- H. Connections to Existing Ducts: Where connections to existing duct banks are indicated, excavate around the duct banks 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.
- 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.

**--- END OF SECTION ---**