

## Electrical Distribution Safety

### **DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS**

This bulletin updates and replaces Bulletins DIB-03-08. It is recommended the copies of DIB-03-08 be destroyed and replaced with this bulletin. The intent of this Bulletin is to inform Ontario LDCs what is required to meet Regulation 22/04 when it comes to work on installations (i.e. new line sections, replacements, alterations, additions, upgrades) on existing overhead and underground systems.

### **ESA DIRECTION**

The following direction applies to all (i) non-emergency work (See ESA Guideline – Section 7 for additional information) and (ii) materially significant work (see ESA Bulletin on “Materially Insignificant” Alterations for additional information), under the C22.3 No.1 and/or C22.3 No.7 Standards (“Standard(s)”).

#### Notes:

“Structure” is being defined as “the main supporting unit for a supply line and/or communication line”.

“Accounted for” can be demonstrated by the original plans, approved standards and work instructions leaving provisions (e.g. loading, clearances and separations) for future attachments. Where the plans, approved standards and work instructions are not available, installed infrastructure may demonstrate they were accounted for, such as extra ducts for underground or brackets installed on structures for overhead. See bullets 5 & 6 below, for applicability of this note.

1. Existing overhead and underground lines that have been constructed in compliance with a prior version of the Standards, may remain in service in the event of subsequent revisions of the Standards, and need not be modified to comply with the current Standard editions or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
2. New line sections shall comply with the current Standard editions or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
3. Replacement or alteration of existing non-structure equipment (including conductors, insulators and other equipment), for the repair or replacement of failed or failing components, is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line’s original design, and need not be modified to comply with current Standard editions.
4. Replacement of existing structures, meeting the like-for-like replacement definition (e.g. maximum limit of 1 dressed pole), for the repair or replacement of failed or failing components, is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line’s original design, and need not be modified to comply with current Standard editions. All other replacements of structures shall comply with the current Standard editions or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.



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5. Altering or adding new structural loads to a structure that were **accounted** for by the original design and that meet the requirements of the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design, is permitted (contingent on the approval from the structure owner) to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design and need not be modified to comply with current Standard editions. All other alterations or additions of new structure loads to a structure shall comply with the current Standard editions or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
6. Altering or adding new structural loads to a structure that were **unaccounted** for by the original design shall comply with the current Standard editions or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
7. Non-structure upgrades, such as voltage conversions, where the original design meets the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design, is permitted to use the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design.



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**EXAMPLES**

The following are examples of the Direction section of this bulletin. Any reference numbers within the examples point the reader to the applicable Direction number (#).

- LDC is constructing a new line section for additional customers or due to a relocation for a road widening. This is deemed a new line section **(2)** and shall comply with the current edition of the Standards or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
- LDC is splicing or undertaking cable injection work. This is deemed as a replacement or alteration of existing non-structure equipment **(3)** and is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design, without being modified to comply with the current edition.
- LDC is replacing failed or failing insulators. This is deemed as a replacement or alteration of existing non-structure equipment **(3)** and is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design, without being modified to comply with the current edition.
- LDC is replacing one failed or failing structure. This is deemed as a replacement of an existing structure **(4)** and is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design, without being modified to comply with the current edition.
- LDC is replacing more than one structure, where the structures are adjacent to one another. This is deemed as a replacement of existing structures **(4)** and shall comply with the current edition of the Standards or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
- LDC or 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Attacher is adding a materially significant load to a structure. This is deemed as an alteration or addition of a new structural load **(5)** and is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design (contingent on the approval from the structure owner), without being modified to comply with the current edition, as long as the structure load was accounted for by the original design. If it does not meet the criteria above, this is deemed as an alteration or addition of a new structural load unaccounted for by the original design **(6)** and it needs to comply with the current edition of the Standards or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.



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- LDC is adding a new transformer on an existing pole, where this new structural load was unaccounted for by the original design. This is deemed as an addition of a new structure load unaccounted for by the original design (6) and it needs to comply with the current edition of the Standards or the Standard editions identified in Regulation 22/04.
- LDC is upgrading insulators in order to convert a line's voltage. This is deemed as an upgrade of existing non-structure equipment (7) and this is permitted to meet the edition of the Standard in force at the time of the line's original design, without being modified to comply with the current edition.

## CLAUSE: (C22.3 NO. 1-15 OVERHEAD SYSTEMS)

### *1. Scope*

**1.2** Existing installations (including maintenance replacements and maintenance alterations) meeting the original designs that currently comply with prior editions of this Standard, need not be modified to comply with this edition of the Standard, except as might be required for safety reasons by the authority having jurisdiction.

## CLAUSE: (C22.3 NO. 7-15 UNDERGROUND SYSTEMS)

### *1. Scope*

**1.2** Existing installations, including maintenance replacements and maintenance alterations, meeting the original designs that currently comply with prior editions of this Standard need not be modified to comply with this edition of the Standard, except as might be required for safety reasons by the authority having jurisdiction.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information requests and follow-up may be directed to ESA at [Utility.Regulations@ElectricalSafety.on.ca](mailto:Utility.Regulations@ElectricalSafety.on.ca). For questions on this bulletin please be prepared to quote Bulletin "DB-01/20".