

1. SCOPE

This procedure supplements the General Provisions of the Safety Rules and Power Systems Safety Instructions (PSSI's) and provides guidance for Managers on the management considerations that should be addressed, with particular reference to the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, for justifying work on earthwires and optical cables adjacent to **Live** conductors.

OPSAF-10-016 (PSSI 16) details the safety requirements for work on towers carrying **Live** conductors and for work on earthwires and associated fittings with circuit(s) **Live**.

The Attachments to OPSAF-10-016 (PSSI 16) detail **Safety from the System** requirements for earthwire and optical cable installation procedures adjacent to **Live** circuit(s). These procedures require decisions to be made with regard to circuit outages.

2. ISSUE RECORD

This is a [Reference](#) document. The current version is held on the EN Document Library.

It is your responsibility to ensure you work to the current version.

Issue Date	Issue No.	Author	Amendment Details
Oct 98	1		Initial Issue
Feb 19	2	Colin Rundell	Application to Distribution circuits made clearer. To reflect application in SPM, SPD and SPT, department name changed from Grid System Operations to 'relevant Control Centre, Planning Office'.

3. ISSUE AUTHORITY

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4. REVIEW

This is a [Reference](#) document which has a 5 year retention period after which a reminder will be issued to review and extend retention or archive.

5. DISTRIBUTION

This document is part of the Management Safety Procedures but does not have a maintained distribution list.

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7. REFERENCE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Scottish Power Safety Rules (Electrical and Mechanical) 4th edition
OPSAF-10-016 (PSSI 16) - High Voltage Overhead Lines - Work on Towers, Poles, High Structures
and Earthwires
Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

8. DEFINITIONS

Terms in bold type are as defined in the ScottishPower Safety Rules (Electrical and Mechanical) 4th Edition.

9. ELECTRICITY AT WORK REGULATIONS 1989

The Electricity at Work Regulations.1989 state that no person shall be engaged in any work activity on or so near any **Live** conductor that **Danger** may arise unless:

- (i) It is unreasonable in all the circumstances for it to be dead; and
- (ii) It is reasonable in all the circumstances for him to be at work on or near it while it is **Live**; and
- (iii) Suitable precautions are taken to prevent injury.

10. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 Consideration shall be given to the nature of the work to be carried out and the consequential need for circuit outage(s).

10.2 As soon as practicable in the planning stages of work, the relevant Control Centre, Planning Office shall be approached to investigate the feasibility of circuit outage(s). The assessment of feasibility shall include reference to **System** operators and/or owners of adjacent systems who may be affected.

If, due to Transmission or Distribution Licence obligations in relation to security of supply or for commercial considerations, the relevant Control Centre, Planning Office decide that circuit outage(s) will not be possible within the period for the completion of the work, then the relevant Control Centre, Planning Office shall confirm the details in writing to the responsible Manager.

In the event that outage(s) cannot be granted at the planned time and/or for the duration of the work consideration should be given to undertaking the work at another time or during a series of short outages.

10.3 Before the responsible Manager takes a positive decision to proceed with the work with one or both circuits **Live**, he shall consider the requirements of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. The official guidance to the Electricity at Work Regulations requires consideration to be given to the level of risk involved in working near a **Live** circuit and the effectiveness of the precautions set against the economic need to perform the work.

10.4 Risk assessment shall be carried out by a person possessing the knowledge and experience required to make that assessment and shall include:

- (i) The level of risk;
- (ii) The requirements of other statutory instruments;
- (iii) Additional risks imposed by the specific working environment; and
- (iv) The effects of interruptions to supply.