Standards Alert

Subject: Reminder for the Use of Nail Plates (Gang Nails)

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For Policy/Procedure/Manual: Energex and Ergon Overhead Construction Manuals

Originating Dept: Asset Standards:- Line Standards
Target Audience: EQL

1. Amendment Record

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2. Objective

To remind OH construction staff of the requirement for the use of Nail Plates (aka Gang Nails) in overhead HV constructions to reduce the risk of minor electrical leakage causing ignition of the timber crossarms or pole.

3. Use of Nail Plates

Nail plates are used to increase the surface area of metallic contact to timber to spread any electrical leakage current over a greater area. This helps prevent the concentration of leakage currents in a small area which can lead to localised overheating, tracking and ignition/burning of the timber crossarm or pole.

4. Where to Use Nail Plates

Nail Plates are required for HV line constructions on wood poles or crossarms, where insulators attach to wood crossarms or poles, and where crossarm attachments are made to wood poles (kingbolts and braces).

Nail Plates are not to be used on materials other than wood (e.g.: composite or steel crossarms) but are to be used on the wood pole for kingbolts and crossarm braces used to attach the composite or steel crossarms.

5. Drawings in Manuals

Existing Assembly/Set drawings in both the Ergon and Energex construction manuals detail where nail plates are required and can be found in:

Energex OHCM – Section 1 Attachments – Sheets 1-150 onwards
Ergon OHCM – HV Constructions in the ‘Assemblies’ section

Copies of the Manuals are available via the Asset Standards intranet site or via the RED/Process Zone document system for internal staff. The current manuals are available to external service providers via the internet. The Manuals are uncontrolled documents when printed.
6. Further Information

For further information, please contact

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