

Inspecting, Testing, and Maintaining Wood Poles

SUMMARY

There are millions of wood poles in PG&E's electric distribution and transmission systems. These very important assets must be used safely and maintained properly to provide the longest in-service life possible.

This standard establishes the following requirements:

- Inspecting and testing the structural integrity of wood poles.
- Reinforcing and reusing wood poles.
- Testing wood poles before climbing or changing the strain.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This utility standard targets all employees who climb, maintain, or inspect wood distribution or transmission poles.

REQUIREMENTS

1 Safety Requirements



WARNING

If there is any evidence or reasonable doubt that the pole is not safe to climb, or if it is not possible to test a pole, it must be adequately supported before climbing or changing the strain.

To avoid personal injury, perform all work as described in the following utility procedures:

- [TD-2325P-01, "Testing, Reinforcing, and Reusing Wood Poles"](#)
- [TD-2325P-02, "Testing Wood Poles Before Climbing"](#)
- [TD-2325P-04, "Inspection of Customer/Contractor-Provided Poles"](#)

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2 General Requirements

- 2.1 Inspect, test, and evaluate wood poles for serviceability and structural integrity on a case-by-case basis as described in [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-01](#).
- 2.2 Distribution and transmission wood pole inspection programs meeting the intrusive inspection requirements of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) [General Order \(G.O.\) 165, "Inspection Requirements for Electric Distribution and Transmission Facilities."](#) must be carried out on a systemwide basis. These inspection programs detect poles with damage or decay from the groundline to the pole top.
- 2.3 All wood poles being inspected or tested must have an associated [Form TD-2325P-01-F01, "Pole Inspection/Test Report,"](#) or equivalent documentation supplied by the pole test and treat contractor. Records for intrusive inspection activities must be maintained for the life of the pole.
- 2.4 The techniques described in [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-01](#) must be used to reinforce and reuse wood poles.
- 2.5 Wood poles must be tested before climbing or changing the strain as described in [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-02](#).
- 2.6 Customer-owned wood poles must be inspected before installation as described in [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-04](#).

END of Requirements

DEFINITIONS

NA

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Electric distribution and transmission standards personnel have the following responsibilities:

- Creating, routing for approval, and distributing this standard and its associated work procedures.
- Providing technical consultation to ensure compliance with the requirements of this standard.

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IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

Maintenance and construction personnel have the following responsibilities:

- Ensuring that maintenance and construction employees are aware of and comply with the requirements of this standard.
- Ensuring that maintenance and construction employees assigned to perform wood pole inspections and testing, and subsequent maintenance tasks, are qualified to perform the tasks necessary to comply with this standard.
- Ensuring that wood pole inspections, testing, and maintenance work is performed safely, efficiently, and in a timely manner.
- Ensuring that any identified corrective action is documented properly, completed promptly, and installed correctly. Use work verification to monitor results.
- Verifying the accuracy and completeness of the records and documentation and ensuring that auditable records and documentation are current and readily accessible.
- Ensuring that distribution wood pole testing and replacement work is tracked and reported correctly.

Electric maintenance personnel have the following responsibilities:

- Developing a systemwide annual plan for wood pole testing and treating.
- Developing performance measures and establishing schedules for reporting the progress of the systemwide annual plan.
- Hiring pole test and treat contractors to perform pole testing and treating and to reinforce poles.
- Implementing an effective quality assurance program to assess compliance with this standard's requirements for wood pole testing and treating.
- Submitting the systemwide plans and periodic reports to the CPUC.
- Verifying the accuracy and completeness of the records and documentation and ensuring that auditable records and documentation are current and readily accessible.

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IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

Employees assigned wood pole testing and treating tasks have the following responsibilities:

- Effectively and efficiently performing their assignments.
- Performing only tasks for which they are trained, knowledgeable, and qualified.
- Notifying their supervisors of any additional training, equipment, or resources needed to effectively and efficiently perform their assigned tasks.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

NA

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT / REGULATORY COMMITMENT

[G.O. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction:"](#)

- Rule 31.1 requires personnel to maintain electric supply overhead systems in a condition that enables them to provide safe, proper, and adequate service.
- Rule 31.2 requires personnel to inspect lines frequently and thoroughly to ensure that they are in good condition.
- Rule 44.3 requires personnel to replace or reinforce poles before safety factors are reduced to less than two-thirds of the original numbers due to deterioration or changes in construction.

[G.O. 165](#) requires personnel to patrol and inspect the electric distribution systems on a specifically defined minimum basis.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Developmental References:

- [G.O. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction"](#)
- [G.O. 165, "Inspection Requirements for Electric Distribution and Transmission Facilities"](#)

Supplemental References:

- [Code of Safe Practices](#) (dropdown on left side of page under "Toolkit")
- [Utility Standard SAFE-1001S, "PG&E Injury & Illness Prevention Plan \(IIPP\)"](#)

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APPENDICES

NA

ATTACHMENTS

- [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-01, "Testing, Reinforcing, and Reusing Wood Poles"](#)
- [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-02, "Testing Wood Poles Before Climbing"](#)
- [Utility Procedure TD-2325P-04, "Inspection of Customer/Contractor-Provided Poles"](#)

DOCUMENT REVISION

This utility standard cancels and supersedes Utility Standard TD-2325S, "Wood Pole Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance," Rev. 1, dated 07/11/2012.

DOCUMENT APPROVER

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REVISION NOTES

| Where? | What Changed? |
|-----------------|--|
| Entire document | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document format was updated to comply with the latest Guidance Document Management (GDM) rules. • The links and titles to all Company documents referenced in this standard were updated. • The links and titles to G.O. 95 and G.O. 165 were updated. • The names and titles of the standard's Document Owner, Document Approver, and Document Contact were updated. |