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NPS/002/020 – Technical Specification for 11 & 20kV Power Cables

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to detail Northern Powergrid's (the Company) requirements for 11kV and 20kV underground cable for use on distribution network.

This document supersedes the following documents, all copies of which should be destroyed;

Document Reference	Document Title	Version	Published Date
NPS/002/020	Technical Specification for 11 & 20kV Power Cables	5.0	January 2022

2. Scope

This specification details the type, size and requirements for 11kV and 20kV power cables for use on the Company's distribution network.

It will also be necessary to consider and include any project specific requirements as detailed in Appendix 3: Addendum to Supplier Requirements. Additionally, suppliers shall provide details of any periodic inspection and maintenance information requirements in Appendix 4: Pre-commission Testing, Routine Inspection and Maintenance Requirements.

Technical documents referenced within this specification refer to the latest versions of the relevant International Standards, British Standard Specifications and all relevant Energy Networks Association Technical Specifications (ENATS) current at the time of supply.

The following appendices form part of this technical specification:

- Appendix 1 Cables Types Utilised
- Appendix 2 Self Certification Conformance Declaration
- Appendix 3 Addendum to Supplier Requirements
- Appendix 4 Pre-commission Testing, Routine Inspection and Maintenance Requirements
- Appendix 5 Logistical requirements
- Appendix 6 Technical Information Check List



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3. Technical Requirements

3.1. Conditions of Installation

Cables specified in this document shall be installed in accordance with the Company's policy NSP/002 – Policy for the Installation of Distribution Power Cables. Cables will be laid "direct" into the ground, pulled into buried ducts, open trenches or installed in air. During storage and after installation cables can be expected to be subjected to the full range of climatic conditions encountered in the UK.

Cable laid "direct", in ducts or trenches may be surrounded by ground water for most of their operating lives. Cables installed above ground will be supported by means of cleats either vertically or horizontally and may be exposed to direct sunlight for significant periods. Where installed on wood poles these cables may come into contact with a pole preservation medium such as creosote.

Accessories required to joint the cable may be cold applied or require the application of heat.

3.2. Conditions of Operation

Power cables purchased in accordance with this specification are required to operate under conditions stipulated in:

- IMP/001/912 Code of Practice for the Economic Development of the HV System, and,
- IMP/001/909 Code of Practice for Distribution System Parameters

The following are general conditions of operation and represent the minimum requirements for 11kV and 20kV power cables:

- Nominal system voltages: 11kV and 20kV.
- All cables and associated equipment for use on the system shall be rated at a minimum of:
 - o 12kV for use on systems with a nominal voltage of 11kV, and,
 - 24kV for use on systems with a nominal voltage of 20kV.
- Fault rating (phase to earth): 11kV and 20kV.
 - 11kV shall be 5kA for 2 seconds, and,
 - 20kV shall be 2kA for 3 seconds.
- All cables and associated equipment for use on the system shall have a minimum Basic Impulse Level (lightning withstand) of:
 - o 95kV for use on systems with a nominal system voltage of 11kV, and,
 - 125kV for use on systems with a nominal system voltage of 20kV.
- Nominal system frequency: 50Hz.
- The system operates with the neutral point earthed either directly or through a resistance or reactance at one or more points.

3.3. 11kV and 20kV Distribution Cables – Extruded Insulation

11kV and 20kV distribution cables of single core extruded insulation design are required in both "true single core" and in "triplex" configurations with conductor sizes as specified in Appendix 1.

Cables shall comply in all respects with the requirements of BS 7870: 4.10 and meet any additional requirements specified in ENATS 09-17.



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3.3.1. Conductors

The cable conductors shall be circular solid aluminium or, circular compacted, stranded copper in accordance with BS EN 60228. The range of conductor cross sections required is as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.3.2. Insulation and Screens

The conductor screen, insulation and insulation screen shall be applied as a continuous single pass triple extrusion free of factory repairs. The cross-linking process will be completely "Dry Cured" and no water will be used during this process.

For XLPE (type DIX 3) insulation, the shrinkage, when measured in accordance with BS EN 60811-1-3, Clause 10, for 1 h at (130 \pm 2) °C, shall not exceed 4%. For designs with XLPE insulation, the insulation screen shall be of the "fully bonded" type.

Insulation thickness for 11kV cables shall comply with requirements of BS 7870: 4.10 and any additional requirements of ENATS 09-17.

Insulation thickness for 20kV cables shall comply with the requirements of BS 7870-4.10- 12.7/22(24) kV cables.

All cables shall comply with the concentricity and circularity requirements of BS 7870: 4.10 and meet any additional requirements specified in ENATS 09-17.

3.3.3. Metallic Screen and Moisture Blocking

All cables shall have minimum 35mm² copper wire screens and meet the fault rating requirements as detailed in section 3.2. There shall also be a copper equalizing tape or wire installed in the case of both 11kV and 20kV cables.

Moisture blocking tape shall be provided under and over the copper wires to provide longitudinal moisture blocking. Moisture content of moisture blocking tape will be less than 50,000 ppm.

Cables shall pass the moisture penetration test outlined in BS 7870-4.10 Clause 7.8.3.

3.3.4. Oversheath

The oversheath (coloured red for 11kV cables and black for 20kV cables) - shall be MDPE type DMP 5 complying with the requirements of BS 7870-1 Annex B. Maximum permissible shrinkage shall be 3% to BS 7870-4.10. The compound shall have a density within the range quoted in ENATS 09-17.

An outer graphite coating is not required.

3.3.5. Internal and External Cable Marking

Oversheath embossing and printing for both 11kv and 20kV power cables shall be in accordance with BS 7870 part 4.10, clause 4.5.

Each delivery length of cable shall be allocated a unique reference/batch number. This unique number and shall be embossed or printed on the cable near to the metre mark. This unique number will be used to identify all materials used within the manufacturing process. This number shall appear on the factory test sheet covering the cable length and shall be clearly marked on the drum on which the length is delivered and shall be referred to on all invoices and advice notes.

Cables laid up in "triplex" formation shall have L1, L2, and L3 marked externally by embossing or indenting, and brown, black or grey marker tapes applied internally either below the PE sheath or between copper screen wires and water swellable tapes. These marker tapes shall not compromise the integrity of the water swellable tapes.

All external marking must be clearly visible.



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3.3.6. Long Term Ageing

Cable designs must have successfully undergone CIGRE long term ageing tests as per proposed amendment 3, clause 5.4.15 to CENELEC HD 605. See also section 3.3 and clause 4.5.



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4. References

The cables shall comply with the relevant International Standards, British Standard Specifications and all relevant Energy Networks Association Technical Specifications (ENATS) current at the time of tendering, except where varied by this standard. In respect the following documents are particularly relevant.

4.1. External Documentation

Reference	Title
BS 7870-	LV and MV Polymeric insulated cables for use by distribution and generation
4.10:2011+A1:2016	utilities
BS EN 60228	Conductors in insulated cables
CENELEC HD 605	Electrical Cables – Additional test methods
ENATS 09 - 17	Single core cable for use in substations having extruded insulation and rated
ENATS 09 - 17	voltages of 6350/11000 volts and 19000/33000 volts

The supplier shall provide with the tender full technical details of the equipment offered and shall indicate any divergence from these standards or specifications.

4.2. Internal Documentation

Reference	Title
IMP/001/909	Code of Practice for Distribution System Parameters
IMP/001/912	Code of Practice for the Economic Development of the HV System
NSP/002	Policy for the Installation of Distribution Power Cables

4.3. Amendments from Previous Version

Reference	Title
Document Version	Change from version 5.0 January 2022 to version 6.0 October 2024
6 – Authority for Issue	List updated
3.3.2 – Insulation and	Reference changed from 2% to 4% in line with BS 7870-4.10 7.3
Screens	
3.3.3 – Metallic Screens	Remove reference to 'Radial' and change IEC-6080:11 to BS 7870-4.10
and Moisture Blocking	clause 7.8.3
3.3.4 - Oversheath	Change max permissible shrinkage from 2% to 3% inline with BS 7870-
	4.10
3.3.5 – Internal and	Remove requirement for "Northern Powergrid" embossed onto
External Cable Marking	oversheath and amend positioning of marker tapes
4.1 – External	Removed BS 6234, BS 66622 & IEC 60840
Documentation	
Appendix 2 – Self	Amended to reflect changes made in specification
Certification Conformance	
Declaration	

5. Definitions

Term	Definition
The Company	Northern Powergrid
PE	Polyethylene
MDPE	Medium Density Polyethylene
XLPE	Cross Linked Polyethylene



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6. Authority for Issue

6.1. CDS Assurance

I sign to confirm that I have completed and checked this document, and I am satisfied with its content and submit it for approval and authorisation.

		Date
Eve Fawcett	Governance Administrator	04/11/2024

6.2. Author

I sign to confirm that I have completed and checked this document, and I am satisfied with its content and submit it for approval and authorisation.

Review Period - This document should be reviewed within the following time period;

Standard CDS review of 3 years?	Non Standard Review Period & Reason			
No	Period: 5 years	Fender Release		
Should this document be displaye	Yes			
			Date	
Paul Hanrahan	Engineer – Asset Management		04/11/2024	

6.3. Technical Assurance

I sign to confirm that I am satisfied with all aspects of the content and preparation of this document and submit it for approval and authorisation.

		Date
Steven Salkeld	Policy and Standards Engineer	04/11/2024
Aaron Chung	Policy and Standards Engineer	04/11/2024

6.4. Authorisation

Authorisation is granted for publication of this document.

		Date
Paul Black	Head of System Engineering	27/11/2024



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Appendix 1 – Cable Types Utilised

The following list of cables types aligns with the requirements of IMP/001/912 - Code of Practice for the Economic Development of the HV System.

Cable Type	Commodity Code
11kV Single Core	
185mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor	110396
300mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	016414
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	110397
500mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016416
630mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	016418
800mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016422
11kV Triplex Formation	
95mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor	110398
185mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor*	110399
300mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor*	110400
300mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016412
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	107224
20kV Single Core	
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	108927
800mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016420
20kV Triplex Formation	
185mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor*	110097
300mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	107223
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	110098

* These 11kV and 20kV cable types presented in the above table align with the standard design requirements of IMP/001/912 - Code of Practice for the Economic Development of the HV System.

Further cable types presented in the above table form part of the company Assessed Product Database as they may be required as a result of individual scheme designs.



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Appendix 2 – Self Certification Conformance Declaration

11 and 20 kV cables required to be supplied against this specification shall comply with the latest issues of the relevant ENATS, British and International Standards specified. The following tables are intended to amplify and/or clarify the requirements of elements of these Standards but do not preclude meeting all requirements of the standards.

The manufacturer shall declare conformance or otherwise, clause by clause, using the following levels of conformance declaration codes.

Conformance declaration codes

- N/A = Clause is not applicable/ appropriate to the product
- Cs1 = The product conforms fully with the requirements of this clause
- Cs2 = The product conforms partially with the requirements of this clause
- Cs3 = The product does not conform to the requirements of this clause
- Cs4 = The product does not currently conform to the requirements of this clause, but the manufacturer proposes to modify and test the product in order to conform.

Manufacturer / Supplier:

Manufacturer / Supplier Product Reference:

Northern Powergrid Product Reference (Commodity Code):

Details of the Cable Type (Voltage, Conductor Type and Size):

Name:

Signature:

Date:

NOTE: One sheet shall be completed for each type of cable offered.

Instructions for completion

- When Cs1 code is entered the supplier shall provide reference to the evidence confirming conformance.
- When any other code is entered the reason and supporting evidence for non conformance shall be entered.
- Prefix each remark with the relevant 'BS EN' 'IEC' or 'ENATS' as appropriate.
- Provide technical data sheets and associated drawings for each product.



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	NPS/002/020 – Technica	al Specification fo	or 11 & 20kV Power Cables	
	Clause / Requirements	Conformance Code	Evidence Reference	Remarks / Comments
Technical Data	Provide technical data sheets and			
	associated drawings			
Conductor	• BS EN 60228			
Conductor Screen Resistivity	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.1.1			
	• BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.1.1			
Conductor Screen, Insulation	• Continuous single pass triple extrusion			
& Insulation Screen:	(free from factory repairs)			
	Dry Cured Cross Linking			
	• BS 7870 4.10: clause 7.4			
 Concentricity & Circularity 	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.1.4			
Insulation Thickness -11kV	• BS 7870 4.10: clause 4.2.3 (Table 1)			
-20kV	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.1.3			
Insulation Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.1.2 (Table 3)			
	• BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.1.2			
Insulation Shrinkage	• Shall not exceed 4% (refer to table 6:			
	ENATS 09:17 & BS 7870 4.10 clause 7.3			
	for test methods).			
Insulation Screen:	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.1.3			
- Resistivity	• BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.1.3			
	Fully Bonded			
Screen	• Min 35mm² Cu			
Longitudinal - Tapes	Under and Over Metallic Screen Wires			
Moisture - Moisture	• ≤ 50 000 PPM			
Blocking: Tapes - Content				
Moisture Penetration Test	• IBS 7870-4.10: clause 7.8.3			
Oversheaths :	• Extruded MDPE type DMP 5 to BS 7870 1			
	Annex B & Density as ENATS 09:17			
- 11kV Cables	Coloured Red(11kV)			
- 20kV Cables	Coloured Black(20kV)			
- Tests	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.1.4			
	• BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.1.6			



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	NPS/002/020 – Technica	al Specification f	or 11 & 20kV Power Cables	
	Clause / Requirements	Conformance Code	Evidence Reference	Remarks / Comments
	• Max 3% (Refer to BS 7870 4.10 for test methods).			
Cable marking 3.3.5	Unique Identification number and meter marked			
	• L1, L2, and L3 marked externally and Brown Black or Grey marker tapes applied internally on Triplex cables			
Compatibility Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.1.5 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.1.9			
Partial Discharge Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.1 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.2.2			
Bending Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.2 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.2.3			
Power Factor Test	 ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.3 BS 7870 4.10: clauses 8.2.4 / 8.2.5 			
Heat Cycling Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.4 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.2.6			
Impulse Withstand Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.5 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.2.7			
4 Hr Voltage Test	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.6 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.2.8			
Screen Adherence @ SC	• ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.7 • BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.4			
Cold Bend Test	 ENATS 09:17: clause 2.3.2.8 BS 7870 4.10: clause 8.1.10 			
Long Term Ageing	CIGRE / CENELEC HD 605			

Appendix 3 – Addendum to Supplier Requirements

For each power cable offered the Tenderer shall provide the following cable rating data using the operating conditions presented below: -



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- Single core cables are laid in touching trefoil
- Cover to top of 11kV cables being 600mm
- Cover to top of 20kV cables being 600mm
- Ground Thermal Resistivity = 1.2 K m/W
- Ground temperature = 15°C
- Air temperature = 25°C
- Maximum conductor operating temperature = 90°C

	Supplier R	equirements		
Clause	Requirement	Conformance Code (Y/N)	Evidence Reference	Remarks
Cable Rating Data	Cable rating laid direct (Amps)			
Cable Rating Data	Cable rating laid in a 150mm internal diameter duct (Amps)			
Cable Rating Data	Cable rating in air (Amps)			
Cable Rating Data	Maximum dc resistance per phase conductor at 20°C (Ohms/km)			
Cable Rating Data	Maximum ac resistance per phase conductor at maximum conductor temperature (Ohms/km)			
Cable Rating Data	Star reactance at 50Hz (Ohms/km)			
Cable Rating Data	Star capacitance at 50Hz (Ohms/km)			
Cable Rating Data	Charging current per phase at normal voltage and frequency (mA/m)			
Cable Rating Data	Zero sequence impedance R ₀ + jX ₀ (Ohms/km)			
Cable Rating Data	Minimum dynamic bending radius (mm) (In Triplex and single core formations)			
Cable Rating Data	Minimum static bending radius (mm)			
Cable Rating Data	Recommended pulling method and maximum pulling tension (kgF)			



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	Supplier Requirements							
Clause	Requirement	Conformance Code (Y/N)	Evidence Reference	Remarks				
Oversheath marking	The oversheath of all cables shall be marked in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Standard specified in this document.							
Cable metre marking	All cables shall be metre marked throughout the length of the cable and the start and end values shall be marked on the drum label.							
Cable reference number marking	Cables shall be marked with some form of reference or batch number that can be used to ensure batch trace ability of materials and manufacturing facilities used in the construction of the cable.							



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Appendix 4 – Pre-commission Testing, Routine Inspection and Maintenance Requirements

Suppliers shall provide details of the recommended pre-commission testing and inspection required.

They shall also provide information regarding periodic inspection and maintenance requirements to be undertaken during the lifetime of their product.

Detailed inspection and maintenance instructions shall also be provided.

Testing ,inspection or maintenance						
Clause	Requirement					
		Details				
Pre commissioning Testing	Please state any pre commissioning tests					
Routine Inspection	Please state any inspections required during life time of the cable					
Routine Maintenance	Please state any routine maintenance required during the normal expected life of the cable					



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Appendix 5 – Logistical Requirements

Drums used for 11 and 20kV power cables shall have the following dimensions and weights as shown in the table below. Where dimensions and weights are not provided, then confirmation shall be agreed with the Logistics Department and Project Manager on an individual basis.

Cable Type	Commodity Code	Suggested Max Drum Size (Height) (Dia mm)	Suggested Max Drum Size (Width) (mm)	Maximum Drum Weight (kg)	Maximum Quantity On A Drum (m)
11kV Single Core					
185mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor	110396	2200	1200	2000	250
300mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	016414	2200	1200	2000	250
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	110397	2200	1200	2000	250
500mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016416	2200	1200	4000	250
630mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	016418	2200	1200	tba	250
800mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016422	2200	1200	tba	250
11kV Triplex Formation					
95mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor	110398	2200	1200	2000	250
185mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor*	110399	2200	1200	2000	250
300mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor*	110400	2200	1200	2000	250
300mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016412	2200	1200	3500	250
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	107224	2200	1200	tba	250
20kV Single Core					
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor*	108927	2200	1200	tba	250
800mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	016420	2200	1200	tba	250
20kV Triplex Formation					
185mm ² Circular Solid Aluminium Conductor*	110097	2200	1200	2000	250
300mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	tbc	2200	1200	tba	250
400mm ² Circular Stranded Copper Conductor	110098	2200	1200	tba	250

All cable drums shall be returnable and the tenderer shall arrange to collect empty drums from the company's normal delivery locations.

Tenderers shall state at the time of tender their proposed cable drum sizes and weights for each cable type offered.



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All cable drums shall be marked in accordance with the relevant cable Specification or Standard. The drum label shall also contain:

- (a) Northern Powergrid catalogue number
- (b) Name of manufacturer
- (c) Supplied length
- (d) Rated voltage
- (e) Number of cores
- (f) Size of conductor
- (g) Type of conductor material ("Cu" or "Al")
- (h) Abbreviated description of cable construction
- (I) Gross and net weights
- (j) Direction of rolling drum
- (k) The metre marking start and end values
- (I) The unique reference/batch number

Cable drums may be stored for long periods outdoors. All cable drums shall be constructed of materials that allow outdoor storage without undue degradation that would deem them unusable. Manufacturers/suppliers shall provide defined conditions for storage. The drum construction shall be suitably robust and fee from any protrusions such as nails or sharp edges, which may cause injury when handling. All drum labels shall remain legible and durable under these conditions.

All drum labels shall remain legible and durable under these conditions.

The ends of all cables shall be effectively sealed against the ingress of moisture by a method appropriate to the cable type. Tenderers shall detail at the time of tender their proposed sealing arrangement for each cable type offered.

The cable end projecting from the drum shall be protected from damage during transit, storage and handling on site.

The cable on the drum shall not be susceptible to damage during transit, storage and handling on site.

Tenderers shall state at the time of tender their proposed method of protection for each cable.

Each delivery length of cable shall be allocated a unique reference number. This number shall appear on the factory test sheet covering the cable length, shall be clearly marked on the drum on which the length is delivered and shall be referred to on all invoices and advice notes.



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Appendix 6 – Technical Information Check List

The following information shall be provided by the supplier for technical review by Northern Powergrid. Additional information shall be provided if requested.

Requirement	Provided (Y/N)						
Appendix 2 – Self Certification Conformance Declaration							
Full product descriptions and part number/reference							
Complete set of cable technical data sheets and associated drawings							
Completed self-certification conformance declaration including all associated type test data							
Product Quality Plan							
Appendix 3 – Addendum to Supplier Requirements							
Provide additional information as specifically requested							
Appendix 4 – Pre-commission Testing, Routine Inspection and Maintenance Requirements							
If required, please provide details for:							
 Pre-commission testing 							
 Routine inspection requirements 							
• Routine maintenance requirements							
Appendix 5 – Logistical Requirements							
• Provide logistical details with regard to packaging / delivery information and requirements							