

Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales

Company Directive

STANDARD TECHNIQUE: SD5A/4

Design of Low Voltage Domestic Connections

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Implementation Date:

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Approved by

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Date:

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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Introduction

This document specifies the requirements for the design of low voltage domestic connections to Western Power Distribution's network.

Main Changes

The maximum circuit impedance of a shared use main route conductor has been amended to assist with the connection of multiple Low Carbon Technologies rated \leq 32A per phase.

Impact of Changes

The maximum length of low voltage circuits will be reduced.

Implementation Requirements

Managers shall ensure that staff involved in the design of the LV network, or with the appraisal / approval of LV capital sanctions, are aware of, and follow, the requirements of this document.

Implementation Timetable

This Standard Technique shall be implemented with immediate effect for new or substantially modified connections.

REVISION HISTORY

| Document Revision and Review Table | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------|--|--|--|
| Date | Comments | Author | | | |
| June 2019 | Clause 7.1 - Maximum impedance of main route conductors amended to facilitate the connection of Low Carbon Technology's. | Seth Treasure | | | |
| December 2017 | Clause 7.1 - WinDebut phase to neutral impedances changed to align with ST:SD5R Clause 8.1.4 - New buildings constructed in the proximity of a WPD substation shall, as far as possible, satisfy the requirements of 8.1.1. | Andy Hood | | | |
| November 2016 | Table 1 and Table 2 have been modified to take account of electric vehicle charging points. | Andy Hood | | | |
| September 2015 | Table 2 corrected | Andy Hood | | | |
| February 2014 | References to G12/3 have been replaced with ST:SD6E | Andy Hood | | | |
| | | | | | |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document provides guidance on design of low voltage domestic connections.
- 1.2 Western Power Distribution staff and contractors use Windebut software to carry out load flow and protection studies for domestic connections. Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) may either use Windebut or other alternative systems as long as the criteria specified in this document are satisfied.
- 1.3 Where there is any difficulty in implementing this ST the Policy Team shall be notified who will determine whether or not a variation is appropriate.

2.0 CUSTOMER INFORMATION

- 2.1 The first stage is to obtain relevant information on the connection requirements from the customer / developer. Further guidance for WPD staff / contractors on the minimum information requirements is included in Standard Technique NC1Y. For domestic connections the following information is required:
 - Customer name and address (correspondence address) and other contact details
 - Site address.
 - Site plan at an appropriate scale to indicate the site boundary, layout of buildings and roads.
 - Letter of authority where the applicant is acting as an agent of the customer.
 - Indicative date when the customer requires the connection(s) to be made.
 - Total maximum capacity (kVA) requirement and interim capacity requirements for phased developments.
 - The extent of any Contestable work to be carried out by the customer.
 - The maximum capacity required at each metering point.
 - The number of bedrooms associated with each domestic connection.
 - Details of the type and rating of the heating load and the time period when the heating load is will be operating (i.e. switching regime for off peak heating) for each connection.

- Summary technical details of any electricity generator that is required to operate in parallel with the supply stating as a minimum the number, type (e.g. photovoltaic) and size (rating and number of phases) for each connection.
- Summary technical details of any customer owned equipment that is likely to cause disturbance to the electricity supply stating as a minimum the number, type (e.g. motors, welders, heat pumps, kilns, large switched loads, electric vehicle charging points etc.) and rating (starting/striking current and frequency of operation) for each of these items of equipment.
- Details of any street lighting or other un-metered connections to be installed within the development.
- Any payment that is required to be made in advance for the service to be provided.

3.0 LOAD ESTIMATES

3.1 The after diversity maximum demand (ADMD) and the annual kWh consumption of each property can estimated using Table 1 and Table 2 respectively. The ADMD of a property is the maximum demand that is assumed at the time of highest demand on the substation or LV circuit.

3.2 <u>Substation and LV Circuit Ratings</u>

- 3.2.1 The preferred method of determining the maximum demand on a substation or on an LV circuit is to enter the estimated annual consumption information and the expected profile type for each connection into Windebut, the software used by WPD for LV network design. Windebut uses this information to calculate load requirements. Further guidance on the use of Windebut is provided in ST:SD5K.
- 3.2.2 An alternative method of determining the maximum demand requirements for a substation or a substantial LV circuit is to sum the ADMD values estimated for each connection. This method is likely to under estimate the load if applied to a low number of connections (less than 20). Where a small number of connections are made to the substation or cable then it is more appropriate to sum the Maximum Demand (and not the ADMD) for each individual connection.

| Description of | Windebut | 1 Bedroom | | 2 Bedroom | | 3 Bedroom | | 4 Bedroom | | 5 Bedroom | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Heating | Profile | Day | Night |
| | | kWh | kWh |
| Gas Central | OFFER 1 | 1900+A+E | | 2650+A+E | | 3600+A+E | | 4200+A+E | | 4800+A+E | |
| Heating | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Electric E7 | OFFER 2 | 1900 | 1300 | 2700 | 1560 | 3500 | 1950 | 4100 | 2200 | 4650 | 2200 |
| Heating | | +A+E | +B+C+F |
| Electric E10 | ECO10 | 1900+D+E | | 2650+D+E | | 3600+D+E | | 4200+D+E | | 4800+D+E | |
| Heating | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heat Pumps | See Table 2 | Use ADMD method | |
| | | (See Table 2) | | (See Table 2) | | (See Table 2) | | (See Table 2) | | (See Table 2) | |
| Other Non- | OFFER 1 | 2150+A+E | | 2900+A+E | | 3900+A+E | | 4600+A+E | | 5300+A+E | |
| electric Central | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heating | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 Estimated Annual Consumption for Domestic Properties

Where:

- A = 640 x total kW rating of any direct heating.
- B = 160 x total kW rating of any direct heating.
- C = 800 x total kW rating of any "off peak" heating (e.g. storage heaters).
- D = 800 x total kW rating of the electric heating and electric water heating load. For existing connections add together the unrestricted and restricted units together.
- E = 1000 x total kW rating of any car charging points.
- F = 300 x total kW rating of any car charging points.

| Description of | Windebut | 1 Bedroom | | 2 Bedroom | | 3 Bedroom | | 4 Bedroom | | 5 Bedroom | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Heating | Profile | Day | Night |
| Cae Cantual | | KVV | ĸvv | KVV | ĸvv | ĸvv | ĸvv | KVV | ĸvv | KVV | ĸvv |
| Heating | OFFER 1 | 0.9+A+E | | 1.3+A+E | | 1.7+A+E | | 2.0+A+E | | 2.3+A+E | |
| Electric E7 | OFFER 2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Heating | | +A+E | +B+C+E |
| Electric E10 | ECO10 | 1.3+D+E | | 1.8+D+E | | 2.3+D+E | | 2.7+D+E | | 2.9+D+E | |
| Heating | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heat Pumps | OFFER 1 | 0.9+D+E | | 1.3+D+E | | 1.7+D+E | | 2.0+D+E | | 2.3+D+E | |
| Other Non- | OFFER 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| electric Central | | 0.9+A+E | | 1.3+A+E | | 1.7+A+E | | 2.0+A+E | | 2.3+A+E | |
| Heating | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 2 Estimated ADMD Values (kW) for Domestic Properties

Where:

- A = 0.2 x total kW rating of any direct heating.
- B = 1.0 x total kW rating of any direct heating.
- C = 1.0 x total kW rating of any "off peak" heating (e.g. storage heaters).
- D = 1.0 x total kW rating of the electric heating and electric water heating load. For existing connections add together the unrestricted and restricted units together.
- E = 0.5 x total kW rating of any electric vehicle charging points.

3.3 <u>Service and Cut-out Ratings</u>

3.3.1 The MD (maximum demand) for a single domestic connection can normally be determined using the following formula, however, where the customer is known to have additional electrical equipment that is likely to increase the demand then the values may need to be increased. Examples of such unusual equipment include electric vehicles, multiple high power electric showers, kilns etc.

Properties with Gas Central Heating or other Non-Electric Heating:

• $MD = 2 \times ADMD + 8kW$

Properties with Economy 7 Electric Heating:

- MD (day) = 2 x ADMD (day) + 8kW
- MD (night) = ADMD (night) + 4kW

Properties with Economy 10 Electric Heating or a Heat Pump:

- MD = ADMD (day) + 4kW
- 3.3.2 If, for example, a two bedroom property has 2.5kW of direct heating and 8kW of electric storage heaters fitted and uses an Economy 7 off peak tariff (or equivalent) then the following values would apply:
 - ADMD (Day) = 1.8 + 0.2 x 2.5 = 2.3kW
 - ADMD (Night) = 2.0 + 1.0 x 2.5 + 1.0 x 8.0 = 12.5kW
 - MD (Day) = ADMD (day) x 2 + 8kW = 2.3 x 2 + 8 = 12.6kW
 - MD (Night) = ADMD (night) + 4kW = 12.5 + 4 = 16.5kW

The service, cut-out and cut-out fuse will all have to be suitable for at least 16.5kW (i.e. 71.7A at 230V). In this case WPD's standard 80A cut-out fuse would be applicable.

3.4 <u>Generation</u>

Where domestic customers utilise generation it is often necessary to carry out studies to represent periods maximum generation and minimum demand. Under these circumstances the following "rules of thumb" may be applied.

- For circuit / substation design purposes the Minimum Demand associated with domestic load is assumed to be 0.2 x Maximum Demand.
- Diversity should be assumed between wind turbines and PV systems (as maximum PV output is unlikely to occur during periods of high wind). Use either 100% of the rating of the PV + 50% of the rating of the wind turbines or 50% of the rating of the PV systems + 100% of the rating of the wind turbines, whichever is the greater.

- No diversity is applied between the same type of generator or between other types of generation (other than wind and PV).
- The output of PV systems is assumed to be zero between 6pm and 6a.m.

4.0 THERMAL REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Substations, cables, overhead lines, services and cut-out shall be rated for the expected demand and, where applicable generation. The meter operator and the customer shall ensure that their equipment is also adequately rated.
- 4.2 When designing new or augmented networks where the load is predominantly domestic, the maximum demand normally occurs during the autumn or winter periods and loads can normally be assumed to be cyclic (i.e. with a load factor of 0.68 or lower). In such cases autumn cyclic ratings should be used for cables, spring/autumn ratings used for overhead lines and then name plate rating used for new transformers. Where load is to be added to an existing transformer the enhanced rating of the transformer may be used (as defined in ST:SD8D.
- 4.3 If the demand or generation is expected to be high during other times of year (e.g. during the summer) then equipment ratings shall be reduced appropriately. Further guidance is provided in ST:SD8A (overhead lines), ST:SD8B (cables) and ST:SD8D (distribution transformers).

5.0 VOLTAGE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The voltage on the LV network shall remain within statutory limits (i.e. 253V to 216.2V). In order to achieve this requirement:
 - The voltage drop across the LV network (including services) and local distribution transformer shall not exceed 8% ^{[1][2]}.
 - Voltage drop along single phase services shall be limited to 2%^[1]. This requirement helps to control potential differences between PME earth terminals and the general mass of earth.
 - Voltage rise (due to generation) across the LV network and local distribution transformer shall not exceed 1.5% ^{[1][2]}.
- 5.2 Windebut checks that the maximum voltage drop across mains and service cables / lines is less than 6%^[1]. (based on unity power factor). The maximum voltage drop across the transformer is assumed to be 2%^[1] or less.
 - *Note 1: Percentage values of voltage drop and voltage rise are based on 230V.*
 - Note 2: Where high levels of generation are installed in an LV network it is acceptable to lower the tap position of the distribution transformer by one 2.5% step (i.e. increasing the tap by +2.5%), where this is possible. Where this is carried out the maximum voltage drop across the LV network shall be reduced by 2.5%^[1] and the maximum voltage rise across the LV network shall be increased by 2.5%^[1].

5.3 Where Windebut is used to check voltage rise, a separate study must be carried out to determine the voltage rise across the transformer (as voltage rise / drop across the transformer this is not checked by Windebut as standard).

6.0 POWER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 Equipment rated up to 16A per phase must comply with the following standards:
 - BS EN 61000-3-2: Limits for harmonic currents produced by equipment connected to public low-voltage systems with inputs current ≤16A per phase.
 - BS EN 61000-3-3: Limitation of voltage changes, voltage fluctuations and flicker in public low-voltage systems, for equipment with rated current ≤16A per phase and not subject to conditional connection.
 - BS EN 61000-3-11: Limitation of voltage changes, voltage fluctuations and flicker in public low-voltage systems equipment rated current ≤75A per phase and subject to conditional connection.
 - BS EN 61000-3-12: Limits for harmonic currents produced by equipment connected to public low-voltage systems with inputs current >16A and ≤75A per phase.

It should be noted that BS EN 61000-3-11 and BS EN 61000-3-12 define requirements for the maximum system impedance and minimum fault level at the exit point which the equipment is connected to. These requirements shall be met when designing networks and when assessing whether reinforcement is needed (before such equipment may be connected).

- 6.2 The LV network shall be designed in accordance with:
 - ENA Engineering Recommendation G5/4: Planning levels for voltage distortion and connection of non-linear equipment to transmission systems and distribution systems in the UK.
 - ENA Engineering Recommendation P28: Planning limits for voltage fluctuations caused by industrial, commercial and domestic equipment in the UK.
 - ENA Engineering Recommendation P29: Planning limits for voltage unbalance in the UK.

7.0 **PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1 The following protection criteria shall be satisfied for new and substantially modified LV designs:
 - LV circuits shall be protected by HRC (high rupturing capacity) fuses that comply with BS88 Part 5, located at the substation. Circuits shall not normally be designed to be sub-fused.

- LV fuses shall be designed to grade with HV transformer protection. Further information on distribution transformer protection is included in ST:TP4B
- Mains cables and main overhead lines shall be protected against short circuit current.
- The clearance time for faults on mains cables and main overhead lines shall be 60s or below.
- The phase to earth loop impedance and the phase to neutral loop impedance shall be in accordance with ST:SD5R.
- The maximum main route cable impedance (ph-n) of conductors connected to a transformer rated \leq 315kVA shall be \leq 0.245 Ω and for transformers rated > 315kVA the ph-n impedance shall be \leq 0.144 Ω .
- Windebut is set with a maximum earth fault loop <u>resistance</u> of 0.14Ω (mains only) and 0.22Ω (mains and service).
- The impedance requirements will help facilitate the installation of Low Carbon Technologies with a rating < 32A per phase (up to the thermal capacity of the circuit).
- Cut-out fuses or metering circuit breakers shall operate within 5s for faults on the terminals of the cut-out or circuit breaker.
- The standard cut-out fuse rating is 80A although alternative sizes may be used. Further guidance on standard cut-out arrangements is included in ST:SD5D.
- 7.2 All the above criteria assume that that there is zero resistance at the point of fault.
- 7.3 The customer (or customer's electrical installer) is responsible for ensuring the customers installation is adequately protected in accordance with BS7671 (IET Wiring Regulations).

8.0 PHYSICAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

8.1 <u>Substation Requirements</u>

- 8.1.1 Where a substation is required this shall be located:
 - Close to the load centre.
 - At least 5m from the living areas (living rooms, kitchen, bedrooms etc.) of domestic properties to minimise the risk of receiving noise complaints.
 - At least 9m from earthed LV metalwork (e.g. steel framed buildings) where the HV and LV earths of the substation need to be segregated. Further guidance on earthing requirements is provided in ST:TP21D.

- 8.1.2 All new ground mounted substations shall be installed on anti-vibration pads (to minimise vibration and noise) and either within GRP enclosures or within a dedicated building. Requirements for substation foundations and enclosures are specified in ST:NC1V.
- 8.1.3 All new LV fuse cabinets associated with HV/LV transformers shall include a means of connecting temporary LV generation. Further information is included in EE SPEC16.
- 8.1.4 Where new buildings are proposed to be constructed in the proximity to an existing substation, WPD shall, as far as possible, ensure that the minimum distances stated in 8.1.1 are maintained.
- 8.2 <u>Requirements for LV Mains and Services</u>
- 8.2.1 Supplies to new groups of customers shall normally be provided by underground cables. Exceptionally, overhead lines may be used where the use of underground cable is not reasonably practicable.
- 8.2.2 Mains cables shall normally be laid direct in the ground along one side of the road (in the footpath or service strip). Road crossings shall be provided to service properties on the opposite side. Mains cables may be installed on both sides of the road to accommodate large concentrations of load or as a means of reinforcing existing developments. Detailed cable installation requirements are specified in ST:CA6A.
- 8.2.3 LV circuits shall normally be arranged as multi-branched radial feeders. Un-used ways in the substation LV feeder pillar shall be cabled and end boxed outside the substation to enable future circuits to be added without making the feeder pillar dead. The end boxes shall not have PME earth electrodes installed as this may compromise the separation of the HV and LV earth electrode systems.
- 8.2.4 Mains cables shall normally be laid direct in the ground unless there are other good reasons to install the cables in ducts (e.g. to deal with traffic management issues). Where mains cables are laid in or across roads they shall be installed in 150mm diameter rigiducts.
- 8.2.5 Underground service cables shall be installed in black 38mm (internal diameter) alkathene ducts.
- 8.2.6 Services shall not be looped.
- 8.2.7 Link boxes (or equivalent cabinets) should be installed to provide back-feeding facilities between substations, where this is reasonably practicable. Where a link box or cabinet is installed the circuit feeding the link box should not be tapered. Where link boxes or cabinets are provided the associated additional costs shall be borne by Western Power Distribution and not by the developer / customer, as this does not constitute the minimum cost scheme. Where the network is to be installed by an ICP, WPD should specify the requirement for any link boxes / cabinets and the associated additional costs (to be borne by WPD) shall be agreed in advance.

8.2.8 Networks shall be designed for PME earthing as standard unless there are good safety reasons for not providing PME. Further guidance on LV system earthing is included in ST:TP21D.

Information on the provision of earth terminals to customers LV installations is given in ST:TP21E.

8.3 <u>Service Entry Requirements</u>

- 8.3.1 On new housing developments the preferred method of service entry is via an external meter cabinet located in an accessible position on the front or side of the building. When installed the bottom of the meter box shall be no lower than 500mm and no higher than 1000mm above ground level.
- 8.3.2 Meter cabinets shall be installed in a manner that preserves the manufactured fire resistance values.
- 8.3.3 Customer equipment, with the exception of the tails that connect between the meter installation and customer's installation shall not be installed within the meter cabinet. Where Western Power Distribution or the Meter Operator provide an isolation switch this may also be located inside the meter cabinet.
- 8.3.4 Meter cabinets shall be supplied by Western Power Distribution or by an Independent Connection Provider to Western Power Distribution specification EE SPEC37. Meter cabinets are part of the fabric of the building and therefore ownership and the responsibility for their maintenance passes to the building owner once they have been installed. Western Power Distribution hold stocks of various types of meter cabinet door and reserve the right to charge building owners / customers for replacing damaged doors.
- 8.3.5 Cut-out / meter positions may be located inside domestic properties as long as the following criteria are satisfied.
 - The air temperature surrounding the cut out must not exceed 30°C.
 - The cut-out / metering equipment is easily accessible and placed in a well lit area.
 - Sufficient space shall be provided for and dedicated to the cut-out and metering equipment (e.g. 600mm x 400mm) and sufficient space shall be provided in front of the meter position to enable the equipment to be maintained and replaced (e.g. a minimum depth of 1000mm should be provided).
 - The entire cut-out / meter position shall be positioned between 500mm and 1800mm above the finished floor level.

- The cut-out / meter position shall not be located in a bathroom, toilet, showerroom or close to a source of water that could damage the equipment or cause an electrocution risk.
- The cut-out / meter position shall not be located in an airing cupboard, boiler room, sauna, steam room or in any other type of room or enclosure that includes a heat source that is likely to increase the ambient temperature above 30°C.
- The cut-out / meter position shall be located so that a minimum separation distance of 300mm is maintained between any gas meter and the electrical installation (service cable, cut-out, metering and meter tails).
- The service cable can be easily accessed and replaced.
- 8.3.6 The standard method of service entry into the meter cabinet shall be by means of a white, ultra violet proof PVC preformed tube (the "hockey stick") with an outside diameter of 38 mm and a wall thickness of 2 mm. The tube shall be fixed to the outside wall using appropriate cleats.
- 8.3.7 Service cables shall be installed within black alkathene service ducting (as specified in 4.2.6). The alkathene service ducting should be laid from the service joint directly and connect to the hockey stick.

8.4 <u>Street Lighting</u>

8.4.1 The design of street lighting connections shall be in accordance with ST:SD5P.

APPENDIX A

STANDARD DRAWINGS FOR METER CUPBOARDS/CABINETS

| Drawing Number OG/65/4418 Flush | mounted meter cabinet – single phase |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

- **Drawing Number OG/65/4418/3** Flush mounted meter cabinet 3 phase
- Drawing Number OG/65/4421 Surface mounted meter cabinet single phase
- Drawing Number OG/65/4421/3 Surface mounted meter cabinet 3 phase
- **Drawing Number ST:SD6A/3** Flush mounted slim line meter cabinet single phase











SUPERSEDED DOCUMENTATION

This document supersedes ST:SD5A/3 dated December 2017 which has now been withdrawn.

APPENDIX B

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION

| BS7671 | IET wiring regulations |
|-----------------|--|
| ENA ER G5/4 | Planning levels for voltage distortion and connection of non-linear |
| ENA ER P28 | Planning limits for voltage fluctuations caused by industrial, commercial |
| | and domestic equipment in the UK |
| ENA ER P29 | Planning limits for voltage unbalance in the UK |
| EE SPEC: 16 | LV Distribution Fuse Boards |
| EE SPEC: 37 | Outdoor meter cabinets |
| ST: CA6A | The installation of underground cables |
| ST: NC1V | Standard foundation and enclosure details and specifications for 11kV |
| | Substation plant |
| ST: NC1Y | Minimum information requirements |
| ST: SD5D | Arrangements for LV cut-outs and multi-service distribution boards. |
| ST: SD5K | Use of Windebut software |
| ST: SD5R | Earth fault loop impedances and phase to neutral loop impedances at LV installations |
| ST: SD5P | Design of un-metered connections |
| ST: SD8A | Overhead line ratings |
| ST: SD8B Part 1 | LV underground cable ratings |
| ST: SD8B Part 2 | 11kVunderground cable ratings |
| ST: SD8D | Distribution transformer ratings |
| ST: TP4B | 11kV and 6.6kV transformer protection |
| ST: TP21D | HV and LV system earthing |
| ST: TP21E | Provision of WPD earth terminals to customer LV installations |

APPENDIX C

KEY WORDS

Earth Fault, Loop Impedance, Cut-out, IET Wiring Regulations, BS7671, PME, SNE, TT.