

1 25-18.020 Pole Safety, Inspection, Maintenance, and Vegetation Management.

2 (1) This rule applies to all communications services providers as defined in Section
3 366.02(5), F.S., that own poles as defined in Section 366.02(6), F.S. This rule does not apply
4 to poles used solely to support wireless communications service facilities or poles with no
5 public utility electrical facilities attached. For the purposes of this rule, “overhead facilities”
6 are defined as fixtures, conductors, wires, cables, and other devices owned by public utilities
7 that are attached to poles owned by a communications services provider.

8 (2) Safety, Inspection, and Maintenance Standards. Each communications services
9 provider must exercise due care to reduce hazards to which its employees, customers, and the
10 public may be subjected by reason of its poles. Accordingly, all poles of communications
11 services providers subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction under Section 366.04(9), F.S.,
12 must be constructed, installed, maintained, and inspected in accordance with the 2017
13 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) C2-2017, which the Commission hereby adopts and
14 incorporates by reference. Each communications services provider that owns poles with public
15 utility facilities attached must comply with the standards in these provisions. The 2017 NESC
16 C2-2017 is copyrighted and may be inspected and examined at no cost at the Florida Public
17 Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850. A
18 copy of the NESC C2-2017 may be obtained from the Institute of Electric and Electronic
19 Engineers, Inc., 3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5997.

20 (3) Inspection Cycle and Repair and Replacement of Poles.

21 (a) Each communications services provider must conduct inspections of its poles at least
22 every [insert inspection cycle] years to ensure adherence to the strength and clearance
23 standards of the NESC.

24 (b) Poles failing strength testing must be repaired or replaced to meet NESC standards.

25 (4) Vegetation Management Cycle. Each communications services provider must clear

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1 overhead facilities of vegetation at least every three years.

2 (5) Annual Reports. By June 1 of each year, each communications services provider must
3 file with the Commission Clerk an Annual Report.

4 (a) The Annual Report must include the following information for the prior calendar year:

5 1. The number of poles owned in whole or in part by the communications services
6 provider at the beginning and at the end of the calendar year;

7 2. The number of poles that were scheduled for inspection;

8 3. The number of poles actually inspected;

9 4. The number of poles that failed inspection;

10 5. The number of poles strength tested;

11 6. The number of poles that failed strength testing;

12 7. The number of poles repaired and a summary of the repairs;

13 8. The number of poles replaced and reason for replacement;

14 9. The number of poles relocated and reason for relocation;

15 10. The total miles of vegetation management conducted;

16 11. The total miles of vegetation management conducted for each technique used;

17 12. A description of the company's emergency procedures and protocols, including any
18 actual repairs or replacements of poles; and

19 13. A description of the company's storm restoration procedures and protocols including
20 any actual repairs or replacements of poles.

21 (b) The Annual Report must include the following information for the upcoming calendar
22 year:

23 1. The number of poles to be inspected;

24 2. The total miles of overhead facilities for which vegetation management will be
25 conducted; and

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3. The total miles of each vegetation management technique to be used.

(6) Penalties. A willful violation or refusal to comply with this rule will result in monetary penalties as follows:

- (a) \$500 for the first violation;
- (b) \$1,000 for the second violation;
- (c) \$1,500 for the third violation;
- (d) \$2,000 for the fourth violation; and
- (e) \$5,000 for the fifth and any subsequent violation.

Rulemaking Authority 350.127(2), 366.04(9)(b) FS. Law Implemented 366.04(9), 366.095
FS. History-New