OSP Cable Reel Handling and Storage

Shipping and Transport

- All reels must be shipped upright. Shipping the reel on its side can cause damage to the reel flange and/or cause the cable layers to shift. This may cause damage to the cable by causing it to snag during payoff.
- Reels must be moved upright by lifting the cable with a fork lift or reel mover. The forks must be placed under the reel with the forks always perpendicular to the reel flange.

Storage and Handling

- Reels must be stored upright. Reels must not be stored on their sides.
- Store reels in areas with flat, solid surfaces. Use appropriate devices to prevent reel movement.
- Avoid storage areas that are susceptible to flooding, or that could be hazardous to the cable, such as sharp, rocky terrain.
- If reels are to be rolled, they should be rolled in the direction of the arrow on the reel.
- Rolling reels in the opposite direction may cause the cable to become loose and cause difficulty in installation.
- The reel should not be dragged or pushed even for short distances as the flange of the reel may break or be damaged. Communication cable reels should be lifted completely or rolled for moving.
- Cable end caps should remain in place until installation.

Installation

- The reel must remain in an upright position for paying off the cable.
- All safety precautions for securing the reel prior to placing should be followed.
- Prior to removal of the cable from the reel, the reel flanges should be examined for splinters or protruding nails, staples, etc. that could damage the jacket of the cable as it is being unreeled.
- When the drum is mounted on cable jacks in order to draw off, lay, or respool cable, it is rotated in the direction opposite to that indicated by the arrow (see figure 3 on page 2).
- Cable end caps should be installed /replaced on all cable ends.

When installing long lengths of small diameter OSP cable stored on large wood reels, the inside end of the cable has a tendency to creep through the start hole in the reel flange when the drum is rotated. Special care is required to prevent cable damage due to this phenomenon called cable creep.

Before beginning installation, tighten flange bolts with an opened end wrench or socket to help minimize cable movement on the reel. Bolts may have worked loose during transportation and it is recommended to tighten bolts periodically during installation due to vibration. If stored for a long length of time, expansion and contraction of the wood can loosen bolts.

Note: Damage to cable can occur when the start or inner end of cable is left secured to the reel or catches on something not allowing it to pay out. Cable can back up into the reel causing buckling in the traverse or possibly forced between the layers of cable above (see figure 1 below).

To minimize cable creep, release the cable start end from the outside flange of the reel (see figure2). Cut the cable to within 1 foot of the start (arbor) hole and allow cable to freely payout of the hole. Cut excess cable forced out to a manageable length during installation.

Keep a proper amount of tension on the top layer of the cable during installation to prevent slack. If coils on the reel become loose, slack may work its way into the lower layers. If this happens, the cable will have a greater tendency to creep out of the arbor hole or could possibly begin kinking, thus damaging the cable.

figure 1

Detach cable start end from reel.

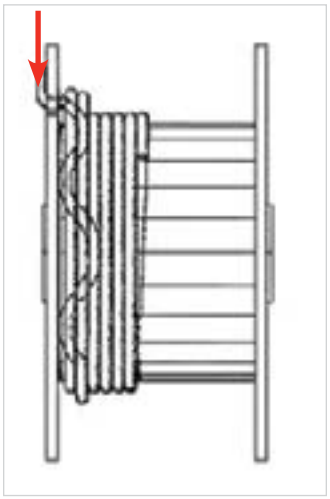

figure 2

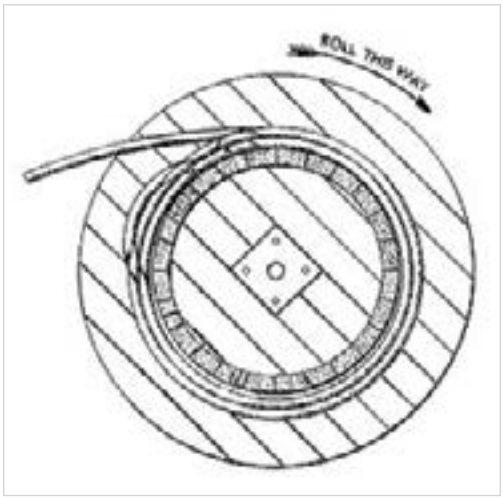

figure 3

Other Reels

- Cables (including cuts and remnants) that are transferred to other reels should be wound onto communications cable reels of sufficient size and substance to accommodate the cable and the environment. In general, compare to the original reel, adjusting for cable length if needed. If in doubt, contact Superior Essex Technical Support at 877-263-2818 for specific recommendations.
- Thermal wrap may be used to protect cables from exposure to direct sunlight, if desired.
- Cable end caps should be installed on all cable ends.
- Both cable ends should be secured.
- Follow all above recommendations for shipping and transport, storage and handling, and installation.