



TeAM Policy

Telecom Applications Management

SUBJECT: Maintaining Climbing Space on Overhead Distribution Poles

POLICY NO.: 002-01-01

1.0 Policy Statement

This policy establishes guidelines for maintaining climbing space on overhead distribution poles owned by or supporting facilities belonging to Consolidated Edison Company of New York (CECONY). These guidelines are in accordance with the latest edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and in agreement with the Bell System Manual of Construction Procedures (Issue 3, December 1998).

2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 **Boxing**. The installation of communications equipment on more than one side of a pole.
- 2.2 **Climbing Space**. An unobstructed vertical space along the side of a pole that must be maintained (Figure 1, page 2). In general, it consists of an imaginary box 30 in (70 mm) square, extending at least 40 in (1 m) above the highest communications attachment and 40 in (1 m) below the lowest communications attachment.
- 2.3 **Walk**. A continuous segment of a licensee franchise area, consisting of approximately 200 poles, proposed by the licensee and forming the basic unit of make-ready work. A multi-party walk involves the surveying of the above-mentioned poles by the proposed licensee and all other Licensees to that pole (including CECONY, Verizon and all other existing licensees).

3.0 Boxing of Poles

Climbing space must be maintained to facilitate safe operation and maintenance of the overhead distribution system. Therefore, the installation of communications equipment on more than one side of the pole should be limited to those instances where boxing a pole is less expensive and time-consuming alternative to:

- Pole replacement,
- Vertical pole top extension,
- Horizontal pole extension (support hardware).

Determination to box a pole will be made during the pole walk.

4.0 References

- Bell System Manual: *Manual of Construction Procedures*
335241 *Pole Space Allocation*
- TeAM Policy 012-00-01: *Conducting Multi-Party Pole Walks to Determine Make Ready Work*

Figure 1: Climbing Space Configurations (Refer to the Bell System Manual of Construction Procedures for additional climbing space configurations.) Telecom service drops from CECONY poles must be attached at or within 5' of the pole. Service drops are not allowed within the 5' to 40' zone from the pole to mid span to prevent interference with CECONY operation and maintenance of the overhead system.

