

SEPARATIONS FOR DROP AND BLOCK WIRING

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section replaces Section G32.159, Issue 1. It covers the required minimum separations between drop or block wires and other conductors or metallic objects on the outside of buildings and in pole to house spans.

1.02 Where obtainable greater separations than those indicated herein are desirable from a maintenance standpoint.

1.03 Minimum separations for buried wire, underground service cable located on the outside of buildings and for wiring extended outside of buildings are the same as those specified herein for drop and block wires.

1.04 **Drop and block wires, buried wires and service cables shall not be placed in pipe, conduit or compartment containing electric light or power wires or cables, nor in the same outlet box, junction box or similar fitting or compartment unless separated from the electric light or power wires by a suitable partition, except where the power wires are terminated in an outlet box, junction box or compartment solely as power supply to signaling equipment or for connection to remote control equipment.**

2. MINIMUM SEPARATIONS ON OUTSIDE OF BUILDINGS

2.01 Table 1 specifies (a) recommended minimum separations for drop or block wires that cross or parallel other conductors or metallic objects on the outside of buildings and (b) the type of supplemental protection to be placed at crossings where the minimum separations cannot be obtained.

TABLE 1 MINIMUM SEPARATIONS BETWEEN DROP, BLOCK, AND TELEPHONE GROUND WIRES ON BUILDINGS TO TYPE OF PLANT INDICATED BELOW (APPLIES TO CROSSINGS AND TO HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL PARALLEL RUNS)			
	Type of Plant Involved (Including Associated Fixed Equipment and Wiring)	Minimum Separations	Protection Required if Minimum Separations cannot be Obtained
1. Electric Supply:	Service Drops or Open Wiring not over 750 Volts	4in.	P or S Wire Guard *
	Wires in Conduit or in Armored or Non Metallic Sheath Cable	2in.	
2. Radio and Television:	Antenna Lead-in and Ground Wires	4in.	
3. Signal Wires:	Open Wires or Wires in Conduit or Cable	2in.	
4. Communication Wires:	Foreign Open Wires and Wires in Conduit or Cable	2in.	
	Between Exposed and Unexposed Telephone Co. Wires	2in.	
5. Metallic Objects:	Rain Spouts and Gutters Gratings etc.	2in. —	
6. Ground Wires:	Ground Wires (Except Radio, Television, Lightning Ground Wires, and Telephone Ground Wires)	2in.	
7. Lightning:	Lightning Wires and Rods	6ft.	See Para. 2.02
8. Signs:	Neon Signs and Associated Wiring from Transformer	6in.	S Wire Guard 12 in. Long *
	Telephone Ground Rods to other Ground Rods.	6ft.	No Alternative

* Applies only to crossings. For parallel runs the indicated minimum separations must be obtained.

2.02 Separations of less than 6 feet between drop, block or telephone ground wires and lightning wires or rods are permissible under the following conditions. In no case shall the separation be less than 4 inches.

- (a) Where telephone, power and lightning rod ground connections are made to a common grounding medium such as a cold water pipe.
- (b) Where separate driven ground rods are used for telephone power and lightning rod installations, and the ground rods are bonded together.

3. MINIMUM SEPARATIONS FOR DROP WIRE SPANS TO BUILDINGS

3.01 Table 2 specifies the minimum separations that shall be obtained between drop wire in the span to a building and other conductors or metallic objects.

Type of Plant Involved (Including Associated Fixed Equipment and Wiring)		Drop Wire Span to Building Minimum Separation	
		Crossing	Parallel
1. Electric Supply:	Service Drops or Open Wiring not over 750 Volts	2ft.	1ft.
	Wires in Conduit or in Armored or Non Metallic Sheath Cable	4in.	4in.
2. Radio and Television:	Antenna Lead-in and Ground Wires	2ft.	1ft.
3. Signal Wires:	Open Wires	2ft.	1ft.
	Wires in Conduit or Cable	4in.	4in.
4. Communication Wires:	Foreign Open Wires	2ft.	1ft.
	Foreign Wires in Conduit or Cable	4in.	4in.
5. Metallic Objects:	Rain Spouts, Gutters, etc.	4in.	4in.
6. Ground Wires:	Ground Wires (Except Radio, Television, and Lightning Ground Wires)	4in.	4in.
7. Lightning:	Lightning Wires and Rods (See Para.2.02)	6ft.	6ft.
8. Signs:	Neon Signs and Assoc. Wiring from Transformer	1ft.	1ft.