BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction and Maintenance

SECTION G56.601.1
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AT&T Co Standard

CABLE SPLICING—BURIED
GENERAL

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1.01 The precautions which are outlined in other sections of the buried cable practices should be carefully observed.

1.02 Measurements for the layout of splices must be made carefully to avoid unnecessary removal of the protective covering from the sheath and to simplify protection upon completion of the work.

1.03 In general, the splice should be arranged to avoid using a split lead sleeve.

1.04 Before sliding the lead sleeve over the end of the cable, two layers of muslin should be wrapped over the jute. The muslin wrapping should extend over the jute sufficiently to prevent any collection of asphaltum on the inner surface of the sleeve.

1.05 It is essential to protect the splice with a tent, tarpaulin or other covering during inclement weather, to ensure obtaining adequate insulation resistance upon completion of the work.

1.06 Service cables can be joined in essentially the same manner as other buried cables, should it be necessary to do so. In this case, an overlap of approximately two feet at splicing points should be sufficient. The conductor joints of service cables must be soldered to maintain good contact as the twisted joints corrode in the presence of rubber. Care must be taken to prevent damaging the sheath in wiping the joints of the service cables as the sheath is thin and likely to be melted readily.

1.07 Splices on buried cable may be made in splicing pits dug to a depth which will provide the specified coverage over the completed splices or may be made above ground and then lowered into a trench. In the pit splicing method, which should be used wherever practical, the handling of the cables is reduced to a minimum and there is less likelihood of sheath damage or conductor trouble in the completed splice. However, where digging splicing pits concurrently with splicing work would be impracticable or unduly expensive because of either frozen or fluid soil conditions which will later be relieved by seasonal changes or where the specified cable coverage would result in unusually deep splicing pits that would require expensive back sloping or shoring to provide safe working conditions the splicing should be done above ground.

1.08 Instructions covering the arrangement of cables in splicing pits and the details of splicing cables above ground are contained in other sections of the Buried Cable Practices.