ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

THE ELECTRICITY (ACQUISITION AND USE OF WOODEN POLES IN THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY) GUIDELINES



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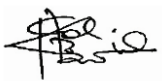
	Peter Kakeeto	**Signature**	
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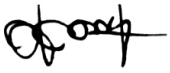
	Dr. Richard Okou	**Signature**	
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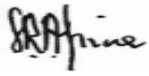
	Richard Santo Apire Chairman	**Signature**	
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THE ELECTRICITY (ACQUISITION AND USE OF WOODEN POLES IN THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY) GUIDELINES, 2020

ARRANGEMENT OF GUIDELINES

1. Title
2. Application
3. Interpretation
4. Objectives
5. Source of Wooden Poles
6. Pole Tracking and Mapping
7. Ordering of Poles
8. Service Life Warranty
9. Wood Scientists

THE ELECTRICITY (ACQUISITION OF WOODEN POLES IN THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY) GUIDELINES, 2020

(Under Section 10 (i) (p) of the Electricity Act, 1999, Cap 145)

1 Title

These guidelines may be cited as the Electricity (Acquisition and Use of Wooden Poles in the Electricity Industry) Guidelines, 2020 and they shall form the best practice to be adopted in the use of Wooden Poles.

2 Application

These guidelines shall apply to all persons holding a Licence or Certificate of Exemption issued by the Electricity Regulatory Authority for Power Distribution, Transmission and any other activity that involves the use of poles for Distribution, Transmission or Sale of Electricity.

3 Interpretation

In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Act" means the Electricity Act, 1999, Cap 145.

"Authority" means the Electricity Regulatory Authority.

"Hazard Class" means areas of erection of Poles in a swamp or termite-infested area, fire prone area.

"Licensee" means a holder of a Licence under the Act.

"Species" means the species of trees grown for Utility Poles, including Eucalyptus Grandis, Clones of Grandis, Grandis Cameldulensis, and Grandis Urophia.

"UNBS Standards" means US EAS 322:2002 Wood Poles and Blocks for Power and Telecommunication Lines, which specifies materials and performance requirements for solid Wooden Poles as may be amended from time to time.

"Wood Scientist" means a person who studied Forestry at Degree Level.

"Warranty" means a written guarantee for a product (Wooden Pole), and it holds the maker of the product responsible for repair or replacement of a defective product or its parts.

"Guarantee" means a written promise or an assurance that attests to the quality or durability of a product or service, or a pledge that something will be performed in a specified manner..

4 Aim and Objectives

(i) According to Section 10 (i) of the Act, the Authority is mandated to develop and enforce Performance Standards for Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electricity; and Section 10 (p) of the Act mandates the Authority to approve Standards for the Quality of Electricity Supply services provided.

(ii) Over the years, the Authority has noted with concern the short service of Wooden Poles erected onto the Distribution and Transmission Networks in Uganda, which has contributed to Poor Quality of Service.

(iii) These guidelines are intended to address the problem of premature failure of the Wooden Poles erected onto the network, and to promote Reliable and Efficient Supply of Electricity.

(iv) The Objectives of these guidelines are:

a) To guarantee the Service Life of Wooden Poles to a Minimum of 20 (Twenty) Years after they are erected onto the network;

b) To provide and encourage the Tracking and Mapping of Wooden Poles erected on the network;

c) To set the Standards for the Quality of Poles that are procured and used in the Electricity Supply Industry in Uganda;

d) To prescribe the Minimum requirements for Service Providers that intend to supply Wooden Poles to the Electricity Supply Industry in Uganda;

e) To increase the Service Life and Efficiency of Wooden Poles; and,

f) To improve Reliability of Power Supply.

5 Source of Wooden Poles

a) A Licensee shall ensure that all poles procured comply with the Standards of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).

b) A Licensee shall procure Wooden Poles from the List of ERA-Registered Suppliers.

c) Notwithstanding paragraph b) of Clause 5 of these guidelines, the Licensee shall ensure that any Service Provider procured meets the Minimum criteria enlisted in the Schedule of these guidelines.

d) A Licensee shall ensure Competition in its Procurement Processes.

6 Tracking and Mapping of Poles on the Network

6.1. A Licensee shall Effective March 1st 2021 only erect poles on the network fitted with an Electronic Chip or similar device that has the ability to store the following information about the pole:

(i) The Source of Pole/Supplier;
(ii) The Date of Treatment;
(iii) The Date of Erection;
(iv) The Length of the Pole;
(v) A Unique Identification Number;
(vi) The Global Positioning System (GPS) Coordinates of the Pole;
(vii) The Age of the Pole Before Treatment;
(viii) The Species; and,

(ix) Hazard Class.

6.2 A Licensee shall Collect, Store and on a Quarterly basis compile and submit to the Electricity Regulatory Authority data on Pole Failure on the network.

7 Ordering of Poles

a) To facilitate proper Planning and Seasoning of Poles, a Licensee shall place Pole Orders with Wooden Pole Suppliers at least Six (6) Months in advance.

b) The Licensee shall inspect the premises of a Wooden Pole Supplier to confirm that the Supplier has the following:

(i) Adequate space for storing Pole Stock and Seasoning for a period of at least Six (6) Months to ensure the right moisture content in accordance with the UNBS Standards;

(ii) Adequate equipment to facilitate the Handling and Movement of Poles;

(iii) A Pole Treatment Plant; and,

(iv) Adequate equipment to Test the Poles after Treatment.

8 Service Life Warranty

A Licensee shall procure Wooden Poles with a Guaranteed Service Life of at least 20 (Twenty) Years and warranty of 10 (Ten) Years.

9 Wood Scientist

A Licensee is required to recruit a Wood Scientist as part of its Staff Complement within a period of Six (6) Months from the Effective date of these guidelines.

RICHARD SANTO APIRE,
Chairman, Electricity Regulatory Authority.

Schedule

Requirements for Registration of Wooden Pole Service Providers

a) A Wooden Pole Supplier shall keep a Register of all the Persons from whom it sources poles for treatment.

b) The Wooden Pole Supplier shall be an ISO-Certified Company with respect to Quality Management Systems; and if not, the certification shall be obtained within One (1) Year from the date of registration.

c) The Wooden Pole Supplier shall possess a Valid UNBS Certificate of authorization to Treat Poles;

d) The Wooden Pole Supplier shall possess a Valid NEMA Certificate for operating a Wooden Pole Treatment Plant;

e) The Wooden Pole Supplier shall have a Seasoning Yard, Storage Yard and necessary equipment for the Treatment of Wooden Poles commensurate with production capacity of the Pole Treatment Plant.

f) The Wooden Pole Supplier shall have an operating Vacuum Pressure Treatment Plant.

g) The Supplier shall demonstrate Financial Capacity to stock at least 5,000 (Five Thousand) Poles for Seasoning;

h) A Wooden Pole Supplier shall have a Wood Scientist as part of its Staff Complement.

i) A Wooden Pole Supplier shall demonstrate that the supplied Eucalyptus Poles have attained the required age of Eight (8) Years Before Treatment.

j) A Wooden Pole Supplier shall give access to the Authority after a reasonable notice, to inspect its Pole Treatment Facilities for purposes of complying with these guidelines.

k) A Supplier shall maintain the following documents:
   a) A Valid Trading Licence
   b) Evidence of Compliance with Tax Obligations
   c) Certificate of Registration or Incorporation