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<b>Version:-</b>	2.0	<b>Date of Issue:-</b>		March 2018	<b>Page</b>	1	<b>of</b>	5

# NSP/007/026 – Guidance on Substation Design: Confined Spaces

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on design of Primary and Supply Point substations in order to comply with the requirements of the Confined Spaces Regulations (1997) and has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Electricity Safety Quality and Continuity Regulations (2006).

This document supersedes the following documents, all copies of which should be destroyed.

Ref	Version	Date	Title
NSP/007/026	1.0	Jan 2013	Guidance on Substation Design: Confined Spaces

## 2. Scope

This document applies to all Primary and Supply Point substations constructed on the Northern Powergrid network.

<b>Document reference:-</b>		NSP/007/026	<b>Document Type:-</b>		Code of Practice			
<b>Version:-</b>	2.0	<b>Date of Issue:-</b>	March 2018	<b>Page</b>	2	<b>of</b>	5	

## 2.1. Table of Contents

<b>1. Purpose</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1. Table of Contents	2
<b>3. Confined Spaces – Design Principles</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1. General	3
3.2. Risk Assessment	3
3.3. Recording Presence of Confined Spaces	3
3.4. Warning Labels	3
3.5. High Risk Spaces	3
<b>4. References</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1. External Documentation	4
4.2. Internal documentation	4
4.3. Amendments from Previous Version	4
<b>5. Definitions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Authority for Issue</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1. CDS Assurance	5
6.2. Author	5
6.3. Technical Assurance	5
6.4. Authorisation	5

<b>Document reference:-</b>		NSP/007/026	<b>Document Type:-</b>		Code of Practice			
<b>Version:-</b>	2.0	<b>Date of Issue:-</b>	March 2018	<b>Page</b>	3	<b>of</b>	5	

### 3. Confined Spaces – Design Principles

#### 3.1. General

Northern Powergrid policy on confined spaces is defined in HAS/013, SAF/003 and SAF/001/427. Reference should be made to the Confined Spaces Regulations (1997) and guidance notes on brownfield sites.

Substation designers should avoid introducing confined spaces. Alternative arrangements should always be sought where possible.

#### 3.2. Risk Assessment

Northern Powergrid policy on confined spaces is defined in HAS/013, SAF/003 and SAF/001/427. Reference should be made to the Confined Spaces Regulations (1997) and guidance notes on brownfield sites.

Substation designers should avoid introducing confined spaces. Alternative arrangements should always be sought where possible.

#### 3.3. Recording Presence of Confined Spaces

Where a confined space cannot be designed out, it shall be reported to the Safety Section and an appropriate procedure for access agreed and documented. All confined spaces shall be recorded on Northern Powergrid's confined space register. The presence of all confined spaces should be recorded in the designer's risk assessment.

#### 3.4. Warning Labels

Warning labels (Commodity Code 294827) must be fixed adjacent to and outside the entrance to all confined spaces of medium and high risk. Measures should also be taken to prevent unauthorised access. A second label as described in Appendix 1 of SAF/001/427 must be fixed inside all medium-risk confined spaces as near as practical to the entrance. In all cases the final position of these signs should be agreed with the Safety Section.

#### 3.5. High Risk Spaces

No Northern Powergrid staff shall be allowed into high risk confined spaces. Reference must be made to the Safety Section. These areas shall be locked off and labelled accordingly.

<b>Document reference:-</b> NSP/007/026		<b>Document Type:-</b> Code of Practice	
<b>Version:-</b> 2.0	<b>Date of Issue:-</b> March 2018	<b>Page</b> 4	<b>of</b> 5

## 4. References

### 4.1. External Documentation

Reference	Title
	Confined Spaces Regulations (1997)
ESQCR	Electricity Safety Quality and Continuity Regulations (2006)
GBG59 Pt 1 & 2	Good Building Guide Pt1 and Pt2 Brownfield Sites

### 4.2. Internal documentation

Reference	Title
HAS/013	Confined Spaces and Excavations
SAF/001/427	Code of Practice for Entry to and Work in Confined Spaces
SAF/003	Policy for Confined Spaces

### 4.3. Amendments from Previous Version

Reference	Description
n/a	Format updated to new CDS template

## 5. Definitions

Reference	Definition
n/s	n/a

<b>Document reference:-</b>	NSP/007/026	<b>Document Type:-</b>	Code of Practice			
<b>Version:-</b>	2.0	<b>Date of Issue:-</b>	March 2018	<b>Page</b>	5	<b>of</b> 5

## 6. Authority for Issue

### 6.1. CDS Assurance

I sign to confirm that I have completed and checked this document and I am satisfied with its content and submit it for approval and authorisation.

		Sign	Date
Faye Wilson	CDS Administrator	Faye Wilson	01/02/2018

### 6.2. Author

I sign to confirm that I have completed and checked this document and I am satisfied with its content and submit it for approval and authorisation.

**Review Period** - This document should be reviewed within the following time period.

Standard CDS review of 3 years	Non Standard Review Period & Reason		
Yes	Period: n/a	Reason: n/a	
Should this document be displayed on the Northern Powergrid external website?			Yes
		Sign	Date
Steve Wilkinson	PEP Engineer	Steve Wilkinson	12/03/2018

### 6.3. Technical Assurance

I sign to confirm that I am satisfied with all aspects of the content and preparation of this document and submit it for approval and authorisation.

		Sign	Date
Steven Duck	Contract Compliance Manager	Steven Duck	23/03/2018

### 6.4. Authorisation

Authorisation is granted for publication of this document.

		Sign	Date
Dave Sillito	PEP Manager	Dave Sillito	23/03/2018