

GUY CABLE MAINTENANCE

TENSIONING OF GUY CABLES

As cables work in the wind, they creep and elongate. This is normal and should be subject to periodic maintenance. It is recommended the cable tensions be checked after six months, one year, and every second year thereafter. The other effect of the elongation is to reduce the tension on the clips. The clips should be checked after thirty days, and then according to the same schedule as for tensioning.

FLARE STACKS

The stack is generally operated at a temperature very close to ambient, which means there is no thermal growth in the stack that is not offset by an equal amount in the cables. Therefore, tensioning can be carried out at any time.

INCINERATOR AND EXHAUST STACKS

These stacks operate at a temperature quite different from ambient, and this must be considered when tensioning. It is not recommended to tension these cables at times *other than* operating, unless the stack is down for quite a length of time.

COMMUNICATION AND RADIO TOWERS

Towers operate at ambient temperature and may be tensioned at any time, as temperatures do not affect the tensions.

LUBRICATION

As guy cables work in the wind, the individual wires rub against each other and wear, shortening the life of the cable. Periodic lubrication of the cables reduces this wear and also provides additional protection against corrosion.

The method of application of the lubricant is important. Some mechanical methods have been developed that apply the lubricant under pressure, injecting it into the cable. This can be beneficial, however it does have pitfalls; the equipment is subject to malfunction that could leave gaps in the protection, the lubricant could leak out and fall to the ground leaving a possible environmental problem.

Manual installation is done by a worker rubbing on the lubricant. It is not forced into the cable under pressure however, all cables are lubricated at time of manufacture and so this difference may be moot.

End connections are the location of most problems with cables, therefore it is important that the end connections be thoroughly inspected each time the cables are serviced. It is considered good practice to have any person in the area take a look at the connections and to report any anomaly.