



Georgia Overhead Cable Marking Standard Adopted by GUCC Board of Directors on October 6, 2004

Justification

The need for a consistent overhead cable tagging system became more apparent because of the deregulation of the telecommunications industry. There was a drastic increase in the number of companies requesting to attach to pole lines both in rural and metropolitan areas. With cable television companies and telecommunication companies installing fiber optic cable, it became very difficult to distinguish between the facilities of the two industries, as well as the facilities within each of these industries. Also, a variety of other entities such as governmental agencies and private companies are finding ways to use fiber to meet their organizational needs. All of this is in addition to the existing copper and fiber cables that have been installed over the years. The ongoing creation, consolidation, and buyout of telecommunication and cable television companies create a problem in tracking which cables are owned by a specific company at a given time.

Up to now there has been no consistency in the marking of these cables. Some have been marked with tags that deteriorate within a few years. But in most cases, there are no readable markings to distinguish between cables, both new and existing. The lack of a way to identify overhead cables causes problems in the notification of transfers, the correction of unsafe conditions, the accounting of attachments, and the disposition of other maintenance and operational issues. For these reasons the following Standard was approved by the Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council Board of Directors on October 6, 2004.

Philosophy

The requirement for field identification of cables dictates that the Cable Marking Standard needs to be flexible enough to reflect the transfer of cable ownership between companies. Immediate re-tagging of cables for ownership changes or deterioration of tag legibility should be avoided. There are also benefits to making the System accessible by government agencies, such as emergency response, law enforcement, and others. Other companies and individuals can also use this System to facilitate communications with cable owners. This increases public safety and minimizes the time window in which cables could be further damaged. The Cable Marking Standard accomplishes all of these through the use of an identification system.

The Identification System

The identification system consists of three individual fields. The first field contains the National Joint Utilities Notification System (NJUNS) member code for the entity making the attachments. This member code contains up to 6 digits. The second field uses the three-digit county sales tax code for the county in which the attachments are made. (See Exhibit 1 for the complete listing of all of these codes for the State of Georgia.) The third field is optional and can be used at the discretion of the attaching entity. It can be used to differentiate between divisions, franchises, fiber rings, districts, etc. or can be used to display other information such as a contact number.

Tagging Example:

Assumptions:

Company A makes attachments in Appling County
Attachments are contained within a division of Company A called Division 1
Company A is assigned an NJUNS member code of COMPA.

The attachments would be tagged: COMPA-001-DIV1

Assumptions:

Company B makes attachments in Appling County
Attachments are contained within a division of Company B called Region 2.
Company B is assigned an NJUNS member code of COMPB.

The attachments would be tagged: COMPB-001-REG2

Information Access

A database will be established to list all of the attaching entities, the counties in which they have attachments, the associated divisions for each entity, if they apply, and a contact name and phone number. This will be accessible to anyone through use of the Internet. The website housing this information has not yet been established.

Flexibility within the Cable Marking Standard

The marking standard allows for the transfer of ownership of attachments without requiring re-tagging, in most situations.

For instance, in the example above if Company A (COMP A) has attachments in Appling County and they are part of its Division 1, then the attachments would be tagged as COMP A-001-DIV1.

Company B (COMP B) with attachments in Appling County and part of Company B's Region 2 would be tagged as COMP B-001-REG2.

If Company B sells its attachments in Appling County to Company A and they will be overseen by its Division I, then the database would be revised to reflect the change in ownership. Although COMP B-001-REG2 would be on the tags, the System (as represented at the website) would show that attachments with these tags are now be owned by Company A. Attachments in other counties by Company A would still have tags beginning with COMP A. Company B will continue to use COMP B on its tags in other counties.

As Company A visits the attachments in Appling County that it bought from Company B, the tags should be changed to COMP A-001-DIV1 to match the other attachments in that county owned by Company A. Assuming information is updated in the database to show this transaction, the website could be used to determine ownership up until re-tagging is complete.

Tagging Specifications

Specifications for Georgia Overhead Cable Marking Standard

NJUNS - CTY - OPTIONAL

NJUNS = NJUNS* Member Code (up to 6 alphanumeric digits)

CTY = County Sales Tax Code (3 digit number)

OPTIONAL = Optional space for attachee's internal use. (Any length)

Example:

OWNER1 - 060 - Atlanta

NJUNS member code for owner of attachment is "OWNER1"
County where attachment resides is Fulton County.
Franchised Area where attachment resides is Atlanta.

Requirements:

On installation, attachments shall be marked on the following poles:

- Every end pole.
- Every junction pole
- Every 5th pole.

Multiple attachments on the same pole shall be marked.

On older lines not marked at all, attachments shall be marked as poles are visited.

If a company's name changes or if attachments are sold, then the website table shall be changed to reflect the new owner information. Notify NJUNS of name change. (The website for the table has not yet been established.)

The marker shall have a life span of at least 10 years.

Letter Height shall be at least 3/4 of an inch tall.

Letters shall be black on an an orange background.

Marker shall be legible from the ground.

*NJUNS = National Joint Utilities Notification System. (www.njuns.com)

Conclusion

The Marking Standard does not solve all problems associated with field identification of cables; however, it is flexible enough to handle a large majority of problems that are occurring because there is no consistency in marking practices. Tags indicating a company name and phone number work only up to the point that the company name or the phone number changes. At that point, tracking the proper owner becomes more difficult. By standardizing overhead cable marking, there is now a consistent method of tracking cable ownership. This reduces liability and improves communication.

Exhibit 1

County Sales Tax Code as assigned by the State of Georgia

County Code	County	County Code	County	County Code	County
001	APPLING	054	EVANS	107	NEWTON
002	ATKINSON	055	FANNIN	108	OCONEE
003	BACON	056	FAYETTE	109	OGLETHORPE
004	BAKER	057	FLOYD	110	PAULDING
005	BALDWIN	058	FORSYTH	111	PEACH
006	BANKS	059	FRANKLIN	112	PICKENS
007	BARROW	060	FULTON	113	PIERCE
008	BARTOW	061	GILMER	114	PIKE
009	BEN HILL	062	GLASCOCK	115	POLK
010	BERRIEN	063	GLYNN	116	PULASKI
011	BIBB	064	GORDON	117	PUTNAM
012	BLECKLEY	065	GRADY	118	QUITMAN
013	BRANTLEY	066	GREENE	119	RABUN
014	BROOKS	067	GWINNETT	120	RANDOLPH
015	BRYAN	068	HABERSHAM	121	RICHMOND
016	BULLOCH	069	HALL	122	ROCKDALE
017	BURKE	070	HANCOCK	123	SCHLEY
018	BUTTS	071	HARALSON	124	SCREVEN
019	CALHOUN	072	HARRIS	125	SEMINOLE
020	CAMDEN	073	HART	126	SPALDING
021	CANDLER	074	HEARD	127	STEPHENS
022	CARROLL	075	HENRY	128	STEWART
023	CATOOSA	076	HOUSTON	129	SUMTER
024	CHARLTON	077	IRWIN	130	TALBOT
025	CHATHAM	078	JACKSON	131	TALIAFERRO
026	CHATTAHOOCHEE	079	JASPER	132	TATNALL
027	CHATTOOGA	080	JEFF DAVIS	133	TAYLOR
028	CHEROKEE	081	JEFFERSON	134	TELFAIR
029	CLARKE	082	JENKINS	135	TERRELL
030	CLAY	083	JOHNSON	136	THOMAS
031	CLAYTON	084	JONES	137	TIFT
032	CLINCH	085	LAMAR	138	TOOMBS
033	COBB	086	LANIER	139	TOWNS
034	COFFEE	087	LAURENS	140	TREUTLEN
035	COLQUITT	088	LEE	141	TROUP
036	COLUMBIA	089	LIBERTY	142	TURNER
037	COOK	090	LINCOLN	143	TWIGGS
038	COWETA	091	LONG	144	UNION
039	CRAWFORD	092	LOWNDES	145	UPSON
040	CRISP	093	LUMPKIN	146	WALKER
041	DADE	094	MACON	147	WALTON
042	DAWSON	095	MADISON	148	WARE
043	DECATUR	096	MARION	149	WARREN
044	DEKALB	097	McDUFFIE	150	WASHINGTON
045	DODGE	098	McINTOSH	151	WAYNE
046	DOOLY	099	MERIWETHER	152	WEBSTER
047	DOUGHERTY	100	MILLER	153	WHEELER
048	DOUGLAS	101	MITCHELL	154	WHITE
049	EARLY	102	MONROE	155	WHITFIELD
050	ECHOLS	103	MONTGOMERY	156	WILCOX
051	EFFINGHAM	104	MORGAN	157	WILKES
052	ELBERT	105	MURRAY	158	WILKINSON
053	EMANUEL	106	MUSCOGEE	159	WORTH