

Accessing Light and Medium Wood Poles

Issue date	16 February 2018
Issued by	Vincent Cranny, Head of Health, Safety and Environment
Applicable to	All Overhead Linesman and Overhead Line Engineers

Following a recent near miss, investigations have been carried out to confirm the performance of all ENW approved Pole Chokers on Light Poles. These Light Poles were historically installed on light duty construction and are no longer purchased by ENW.

Under test conditions **all approved ENW Pole Chokers failed to operate as a fall prevention/fall arrest device on Light Poles.**

All ENW approved Pole Chokers have been type tested to the ENATS 43-123 specification and passed the Type Test at an independent test house witnessed by the manufacturer. The Specification requires a pole between 185mm to 200mm diameter of an adequate length for test purposes. Light poles have a minimum tip diameter of 125mm to 130mm.

In addition, the manufactures (Safety Technology) have specified the suitability of pole chokers supplied to ENW as follows:

<u>Manufacturer reference</u>	<u>Suitable for pole diameters</u>	<u>Typical Pole</u>
90115 WP	150mm – 215mm	Medium
90115 WPS	215mm – 300mm	13m + Medium / Stout
90210 Pole Cat CR	200mm – 350mm	Stout

- For all working at height on wood poles CP430 Pt1 Modules 250 to 255 shall be completed.
- Access using an approved Pole Choker shall be within the suitable pole diameter as stated by the manufacturer. The Pole Choker shall be correctly adjusted which may require adjustment when ascending/descending the pole as the pole diameter changes.
- If there is a need to work at height on a Light Pole and the only viable option is to access on climbing irons then the fall arrest lanyard must also be deployed when climbing, with the fall arrest lanyard being adjusted on ascent/descent so it is tight to the pole.
- Medium poles shall only be accessed with a 90115 WP and if not available then the same method of deploying a lanyard shall be used.

