



Stay Rod Thread Issue

Two different problems have recently come to light regarding stay rods: (1) poor manufacture of the rods and (2) loose locking nuts.

(1) Poor Manufacture

There have been two separate incidents where poor manufacturing has resulted in the threads of stay rods being stripped when being made off to final tension.

In the first incident, a linesman had made off the new stay. He was then removing the old stays when he was struck on the back of the helmet by the stay wire. Upon inspection, the stay barrel had come away from the rod and the rod's thread had been stripped.

In the second incident, the stay wire was made off, and it was the eye bolt/pin that came away under the tension, while the barrel remained on the rod.

These rods were manufactured in 2012. Since then, the manufacturer has invested in new machinery and has tightened up their Quality Assurance (QA) processes.

(2) Loose Locking Nuts

An inspection of 324 poles on 25 different circuits showed 90 poles exhibiting at least one loose locking nut on the stays and 7 loose stays. An inspection of 18 stays in another location, identified 8 with loose locking nuts.

Improved QA process by the manufacturer, together with new threading machinery, has rectified this problem.

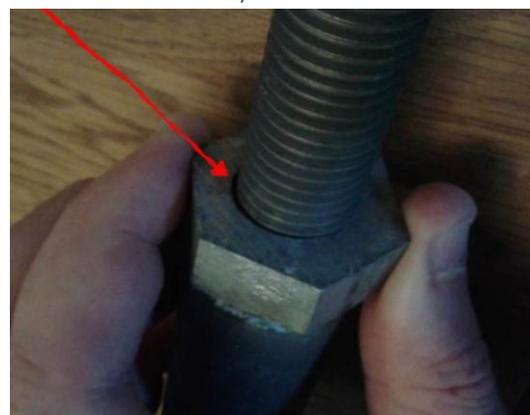


Detached stay



Narrow thread on a stay rod

"Loose" fit of nuts on stay rods



Recommendations and Action Points

- Prior to any work being carried on a line, the existing stays shall be inspected.
- Where existing stays with loose locking nuts are found, the nuts shall be tightened and secured.
- Prior to the installation of a new stay rod, the threads of the rod shall be inspected to ensure that the nuts fit the rod properly.
- When the work is complete, a final check of the completed stays shall be made.

Going forward, stay rods manufactured by the new machinery will not have this problem.