



# AUS

## Rod Care and Maintenance

The following information sheet contains recommended Care and Maintenance information for the AUS Ltd fibreglass operating rod system. It is important that only fully trained, authorised and competent persons work with our rod systems under live line working conditions. New rods meet the requirements of EA TS 43-81, and are rated to 75kV/foot.

**Pre-usage Inspection** - Before each use rod systems MUST be subject to a thorough pre-use inspection by the operative. All sections of each rod should be inspected. All inspections should be visual and tactile to identify any defects such as contamination, abrasions, bruising, cracks, surface deterioration, excessive wear especially at the base and around button holes, function of buttons or damage to spigots. The surface finish should not be damaged.



**ANY DEFECT WITHIN ANY SECTION OF ANY ROD IS CAUSE FOR REJECTION AND QUARANTINE AS IT MAY IMPAIR ITS DIELECTRIC INTEGRITY OR PHYSICAL STRENGTH. BEFORE PUTTING ANY SUSPECT ROD BACK INTO SERVICE, THE ROD MUST BE INSPECTED BY FULLY COMPETENT PERSON OR AN AUS QUALIFIED INSPECTOR.**

**Detailed Inspection** - Detailed inspection regimes are a prerequisite of all DNO's and/or utility contractors. Please refer to these particular company regimes. AUS Ltd recommend a thorough visual and electrical test regime at least every six months, by a Competent person or an AUS qualified inspector. This inspection should be fully recorded and documented.

**Interim Inspection** – Interim Inspections should be carried out where the operating rods and equipment have been used in conditions that could cause significant deterioration, such as prolonged and repetitive pruning operations which may cause abrasion or stress to the components. This should be done as the need arises in addition to the Detailed inspection.

**Setting Up** – It is recommended that no more than six rods are set up initially, with the walking up method, as opposed to a throwing up method used to reduce stress on the rods. Extra height can then be gained by the introduction of additional rods into the bottom end of the system.

**Periodic Maintenance** – Rods should be cleaned when dirty or contaminated with the recommended high-performance wipes (AUS product code WIP010) and once clean finished off with a silicone duster (AUS product code DUST001). The application of a silicone finish is especially important when using rods in wet weather conditions to ensure water droplets form beads rather than a route for live line tracking. MSDS / COSHH assessments available on request for these products.



**WATER AND SOAP BASED CLEANING PRODUCTS MUST NOT BE USED FOR CLEANING RODS.**

**Transportation** – Rod sets should be stored and transported in a suitable rod bag. Canvas and vinyl bag options are available to suit various customer requirements. Please note that rods should be clean and dry before storage.

**Reporting** – It is essential that if any defect is found or suspected in any rod that you stop using that rod immediately, inform your supervisor and place the rod into your quarantine procedure for further inspection by a Competent person.



**ALWAYS complete all required inspections. DO NOT take any risks. If in doubt contact AUS Ltd for further advice. Training on the use and inspection of fibre glass rods and a full independent Inspection service is also available. Contact us for details.**

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