

New Zealand Power Company to roll out new pole testing technique after two years of trials

Wellington, June 2016



Cinetix/Vonaq tool has been successfully tested by PowerCo, a New Zealand Power Company that decided to run a Field Trial to test the capability of Cinetix/Vonaq CXI-PT5500 Pole Tester to estimate wooden poles Ultimate Breaking Strength (UBS), namely the pole maximum bending load before breaking.

Jamie Silk, Business and Research & Development Manager of PowerCo, declares: ***“Following an extensive trial of various Utility Pole Tests tools available we found the Vonaq CXI-PT5500 to be well suited to our general pole testing requirements. We are currently updating our processes to enable operational implementation within the organisation”***

CXI-PT5500 is a unique device that makes a quantitative and objective measurement of the strength of wooden poles. It allows Telecom and Power companies to make the condition assessment of their wooden poles making easy to plan maintenance and replacement activities.

CXI-PT5500 is a lightweight portable instrument, using a non-destructive test method, easy to use, fast to operate, weatherproof to IP65 standards and protected under the US Patent 8,630,813 B2.

PowerCo technicians used CXI-PT5500 to collect the field data during 2014/2015; the data set refers to more than 60 poles installed in different types of soil and with different lengths, wood type and configurations. After the tests, the poles have been removed and transported to a local lab to break them and measure their Ultimate Bending Strength (UBS), according to EN14229-2010.



Finally, the CXI-PT5500 test result (Strength Assessment SA) and the lab UBS have been compared, for all poles of the considered set. As a result of this comparison, it has been verified that the SA is always equal to or smaller than the actual strength measured in the lab, so being the CXI-PT5500 result always in favour of safety, and this is consistent with the goal of the algorithm to always take decisions on the safety side.



About PowerCo:

PowerCo is the second-largest gas and largest electricity distributor in New Zealand. It is a distribution company, which network delivers electricity and gas to households around the North Island.

About Cinetix:

Cinetix is a leading provider of technologically advanced Testing solutions in the field of Telecommunication and Utilities market.

About Vonaq:

Vonaq are specialist manufacturers and suppliers of Network and Telecommunications Test Equipment and are dedicated to helping you install, maintain and test your network in the most accurate and cost effective way.