

VIRGINIA CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Underground Cable Television Line Depth Standards

Pursuant to Va. Code § 56-265.26:1, the Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association (“VCTA”) after consultation with the State Corporation Commission of Virginia hereby adopts the following standards for the depth of underground installation of cable television lines in Virginia.

Article I – Introduction

- 1.01 Purpose. The purpose of these Standards is to create an industry standard in Virginia for the depth of underground installation of cable television lines by cable television operators.
- 1.02 Adoption. These Standards shall become effective after consultation with the State Corporation Commission and adoption by the Board of Directors of the VCTA.
- 1.03 Title. These VCTA Underground Cable Television Line Depth Standards may be referred to as the VCTA Underground Depth Standards, or herein the Standards.
- 1.04 Definitions. The definitions contained in the latest edition of Jones Cable Television Dictionary will apply, except where reference to the NEC and NESC definitions is more appropriate (i.e., where those standards are incorporated by reference).
- 1.05 Application. These Standards apply to new installation of underground cable television lines occurring on or after July 1, 2002. Installations made prior to that date shall not be affected, including alterations, repairs, splices or additions made after July 1, 2002 to existing lines installed prior to that date.
- 1.06 Surface Grade. These Standards apply to installation of underground cable television lines at depths based on average surface grade measured over ten-foot intervals, to allow for ground slope variances. The surface grade applicable to installation shall be the surface grade at the time of new installation, without regard to subsequent erosion or accretion which may occur. However, where the surface under which a cable is to be installed is not to final grade, the cable shall be placed in such a manner that it is reasonably expected to meet or exceed the burial depth requirements of these Standards. If the anticipated final grade is not obvious, the cable television operator may rely upon a statement from the builder/developer/property owner or their contractors as to the final grade.
- 1.07 Transitional Exceptions. Where underground cable lines are rising to the surface of the ground to a) make a transition to aerial installation, b) connect to an above ground pedestal or underground vault or manhole for splicing or power supply purposes, c) approach a designated above-ground or below-ground entry point for a building or

other structure, or d) similar transitions approaching the ground surface, then the depth standards shall not apply to such transitional changes. Where underground cable lines change burial depth to a) make a transition from one form of cable burial to another (e.g., direct buried cable to metal conduit or non-metallic raceways) or b) make a transition from one permitted depth to another, then the less burdensome depth standard shall apply to the cable in the course of such transitional change. The distance over which such transitional changes occur shall under normal conditions not exceed five (5) feet from the point of ground surface (or below ground connection or entry point) to the approved underground depth level.

- 1.08 Private Property Exception. Where underground cable lines are installed on private property, and the property owner has expressly requested that the underground cable lines be placed at a shallower depth (e.g., to avoid damage to or reinstatement of an underground sprinkler system), then the depth standards shall not apply.
- 1.09 Scope. These Standards cover the depth requirements for installation of underground coaxial or fiber optic cable for transmission of cable television services, either alone or in conjunction with telephone or information services. These Standards do not cover electrical utility installations such as power supplies to amplifiers, or to cable head-ends or nodes, and do not cover electrical supply cables described in National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Parts 330-354.

Article II – Depth Requirements

- 2.01 Network-Powered Broadband Communications Systems. For network-powered broadband communications systems subject to National Electrical Code (NEC) Article 830, the minimum cover requirements of NEC Table 830.12 shall apply to buried cable lines.
- 2.02 All Other Cable Systems. For underground cable television lines other than network-powered broadband communications systems subject to NEC Article 830, the following underground depth standards shall apply for burial depth below ground level or concrete top surface:

<u>Location of Wiring</u>	<u>Direct Burial Cable</u>	<u>Metal Conduit</u>	<u>Non-metallic Raceways</u>
Drop lines to buildings or structures	6 inches	[6]	[6]
Trunk or feeder lines and all other not specified herein whether or not powered)	12 inches	[12]	[12]
Under or inside a building	0 inches	0	0

or structure

Under a paved driveway, sidewalk or other paved areas, or under other concrete slab or surface	2 inches	1	1
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Notes:

1. The term “concrete” shall also include for the purpose of these Standards any asphalt, bituminous, macadam, aggregate or similar materials with a hard paved surface.
2. Where solid rock is encountered, 2 inches of burial depth is permitted in all cases.
3. Depths indicated are subject to adjustment for surface grade variations (Section 1.06) and transitional exceptions (Section 1.07)

Article III – Compliance

- 3.01 Scope of Compliance. Cable television operators shall be responsible for compliance with these Standards as to underground cable television lines installed by the operator or its contractors or subcontractors, provided, however, that a cable television operator shall not be responsible for a) installations, rerouting or replacements made by or on behalf of a local government franchising authority or public, educational, or governmental entity in connection with public, educational or governmental facilities, b) installations, rerouting or replacements made by a property owner or tenant, or an agent of a property owner or tenant or c) installations, rerouting or replacements made by third parties not controlled by the cable television operator (e.g., joint trenching operations supervised by a utility or private developer installations or trench operations.)

Article IV – Amendment

- 4.01 Amendments. These Standards may be amended by the VCTA from time to time to reflect changes in technology, construction practices or to address other concerns after consultation with the State Corporation Commission of Virginia.