

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 153

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Written, 02/11/2016

Topic: NBN - Installations

Senator Griff, Stirling asked:

1. What are the installation standards that NBN Co expects contractors to adhere to, up to and including, the utility box installation?
2. Does NBN Co review all residential installations up to the point of the utility box connection, or does it undertake a sample review, or no review?
 - (a) If a sample review is undertaken, how is this sample determined?
 - (b) If no review is undertaken, is NBN Co considering conducting a review of any kind in the future?
3. Is NBN Co aware of residential installations where the utility box is less than the required 410mm above the ground, such as that in the following photograph?



4. Is NBN Co aware of residential installations where conduit is not used, and instead coax runs up the wall either from the ground, or out of an existing much lower conduit, such as that in the following photograph?
5. Does NBN Co consider the installation in the following photograph, an acceptable and safe installation?

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Answer:

1. Contractors are expected to adhere to all contractual obligations and installation standards.
2. nbn contractors are required to perform sample auditing as per approved quality management plans. Random sampling or targeted auditing of particular contractors may be undertaken in particular areas where previous non-compliance has been identified.
3. Yes, in instances where the location of other services does not allow the utility box (Premises Connection Device – PCD) to be mounted at the required height or the works required to get to the approved height will be unsafe, unsightly or significantly more expensive, the PCD may be installed at a lower height.
4. Yes, where identified as part of an audit any installation completed in such a way would be corrected. Underground cables must be protected between the ground and the base of the PCD, typically via a conduit.
5. The highest box in the picture is an nbn HFC approved box and relates to an HFC installation. The other boxes are a sprinkler (bottom left) & Telstra (bottom right). In this situation nbn installers would utilise the existing lead in and link the cable from behind the Telstra box into the nbn box however from this picture it is hard to determine how the cable is routed and if the black cable is even an nbn cable. If provided with the specific details we would be happy to attend this premise and inspect the installation.