

**620 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL AND DEVICE INSTALLATION GROUNDING.  
(REV 1-17-12) (1-30-12) (7-12)**

SECTION 620 (Pages 736 – 738) is deleted and the following substituted:

**SECTION 620  
TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL AND DEVICE  
INSTALLATION GROUNDING**

**620-1 Description.**

Install grounding for traffic signal and device installations to provide personnel and equipment protection against faults, surge currents and lightning transients.

**620-2 Materials.**

**620-2.1 Ground Rods:** Use ground rods made of copper-clad steel with a minimum diameter of 5/8 inches. Ground rod sections must be a minimum of 8 feet in length and manufactured for the sole purpose of providing electrical grounding.

**620-2.2 Grounding Conductors:** Use solid No. 6 AWG copper insulated (green) conductor for electrical or lightning protection ground from the system ground bus or barrier plates to the grounding electrode assembly. Use either solid or stranded No. 6 AWG copper insulated (green) conductor for all ground connections.

**620-2.3 Exothermic Grounding Bond:** Use materials from the same source, meeting the requirements of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards 80 and 837.

**620-2.4 Ground Rod Coupling Devices:** Use a coupling device for grounding electrode to grounding electrode connections approved by the Engineer.

**620-3 Requirements for Grounding.**

**620-3.1 General:** Meet all local electrical codes which exceed these Specifications. Install all grounding conductors, which bond grounding electrode assemblies, 18 inches below finished grade. Accomplish grounding for any element of a traffic control signal and device installation by installing either a grounding electrode assembly or a grounding electrode array, unless otherwise specified in the Contract Documents.

Bond all grounding electrode assemblies and arrays together and place in a location that minimizes the length of the grounding conductor between the assembly or array and the element being grounded.

Install 40 feet of ground assembly or array for each of the following elements:

- (a) Electric power service
- (b) Pole with electrical power service installed
- (c) Pole mounted cabinet with electrical power service installed
- (d) Controller or detector cabinet

Install 20 feet of ground assembly or array for each of the following elements:

- (a) Pole
- (b) Pedestals for pedestrian signals
- (c) Metal cover used with pull boxes with AC power

Ensure that all separately grounded elements at an intersection are bonded together to form an intersection grounding network.

For span wire assemblies, use the span wire to connect the grounding electrode assemblies or arrays of the poles.

Do not install a grounding electrode assembly or array for a base mounted cabinet within 6 feet of a grounding electrode assembly or array installed for a pole.

Make all bonds between ground wires and grounding electrode assemblies or arrays with an exothermic bond with the following exception: do not exothermically bond grounding electrode to grounding electrode connections or the system ground bussbar or barrier plate connections located within a cabinet.

**620-3.2 Grounding Electrode Assembly:** Provide a grounding electrode assembly consisting of one or more grounding electrodes coupled together, such that the total length of the electrodes in the assembly is a minimum of 20 feet, driven into the earth at a single point, without disrupting the electrical continuity of the assembly.

Install the grounding electrode assembly so that the final elevation at the top is 6 inches below finished earth grade. Mark the location of the assembly with a stake and keep uncovered until the Engineer performs a final inspection of the installation.

**620-3.3 Grounding Electrode Array:** Provide a grounding electrode array consisting of two or more grounding electrode assemblies, bonded together and spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.

**620-3.4 Grounding Poles:** Ground all poles, including pedestals for pedestrian signals, in accordance with the details for grounding and connections shown in the Design Standards.

For non-metallic traffic signal poles, including pedestals for pedestrian signals, accommodate the ground connection from signal heads and span wires to the ground electrode assembly or array located at the pole base in accordance with the details in the Design Standards, Index No. 17727.

When erecting new metal poles within 10 feet of existing metal poles or structures, bond the new and existing poles or structures together.

**620-3.5 Grounding Electric Power Service:** Ground all electric power services in accordance with the details for grounding and connections shown in the Design Standards, Index No. 17736.

**620-3.6 Grounding Controller or Detector Cabinets:** Ground controller or detector cabinets to the bussbar located in the cabinet. Place the grounding electrode assembly or array as close to the cabinet as possible.

**620-3.7 Grounding Span Wire Mounted Signal Heads and Electrically Powered Signs:** Ground span wire mounted signal heads and electrically powered signs through the span wire assembly in accordance with the details shown in the Design Standards, Index No. 17727.

Do not use guy wires for grounding purposes, however bond any guy wire to the span wire as part of the intersection grounding network.

#### **620-4 Basis of Payment.**

The work specified in this Section will not be paid for directly, but will be considered as incidental work.