

Preventive maintenance of long-distance optical cable lines



Summary of Content

Preventive maintenance of long-distance optical cables involves regular inspection, testing, cleaning, and predictive monitoring to ensure optimal performance and prevent service disruptions.

Key Activities in Preventive Maintenance

1. Periodic Testing and Monitoring Regular testing of optical fibers is essential to detect early signs of degradation, such as increased transmission loss or microbending. Tools like Optical Time Domain Reflectometers (OTDRs) are commonly used to measure backscattered light and identify sections with abnormal loss, allowing technicians to locate potential problem areas before service is affected . Monitoring should include checking for fibre loss increase, strain distribution, and water penetration, which can accelerate deterioration .

2. Cleaning and Handling Maintaining clean optical interfaces is critical. Fiber ends, connectors, and optical modules should be cleaned using Clean Dry Air (CDA) and spectroscopic-grade solvents like methanol. Proper handling includes avoiding bending the fiber, preventing contact with surfaces or fingers, and using protective covers immediately after cleaning . This reduces contamination and ensures stable signal transmission.

3. Network Element Control Preventive maintenance also involves network element (NE) control, which includes identifying, transferring, and splicing fibers as needed. Activities are performed on spare or multiplexed active fibers without disrupting ongoing transmission . This ensures that the network remains operational while maintenance is conducted.

4. Environmental and Structural Checks Long-distance cables are often exposed to environmental stress. Regular inspections should include:

Article Content

NTT Technical Review, Vol. 22, No. 2, Feb. 2024

To maintain optical fiber cables in good condition, it is important to periodically conduct tests to determine the state of transmission

On the management and maintenance of communication trunk optical

Through maintenance and management, optical cable line obstacles can be prevented and reduced. Once the

Preventive Maintenance of Fiber Optic Cables and Optics

Included below are some helpful tips to properly clean fiber optic cables. · Do not allow the end of the fiber optic cable to make

Optical Fiber Maintenance Plan Guide

This document outlines a comprehensive maintenance plan for optical fiber networks, focusing on regular inspections, preventive

Optical Fibre Network Maintenance Guide

It identifies the general functions of optical fibre cable network maintenance, such as preventative and post-fault maintenance. It also

Fiber Optic Cable Failures in the Field And How to

Understanding the common causes of failure and implementing preventive measures is

ITU-T Rec. L.25 (01/2015) Optical fibre cable network maintenance

The objective of this Recommendation is to identify the general functions of optical fibre cable network maintenance, and to provide

Recommendation L.25: Optical Fibre Cable Network Maintenance Guide

From the standpoint of preventive maintenance, optical fibre cable maintenance is composed of three activities such as periodic

ITU-T Rec. L.25 (10/96) Optical fibre cable network maintenance

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ITU iLibrary | Maintenance, safety and environmental aspects

The Handbook is intended as a guide for technologists, middle-level management, as well as regulators, to assist in

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