

Brendon Quinn

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Opinion- Interpretation of ECP 34 Table 2

I am a professional electrical engineer with a BE (Hons) degree from Canterbury University.

I have worked in the electricity distribution industry for 42 years, the last 31 years as the Network Manager for EA Networks, an electricity lines company based in Ashburton. Prior to that I had a senior role with the Christchurch MED/Southpower (now part of Orion).

My role as Network Manager at EA Networks involved management of all the engineering activities of the company including design, maintenance management, planning, system control, and records management for both the electricity and fibre networks. This role was part of the company's senior management team.

I retired from EA Networks in April 2022.

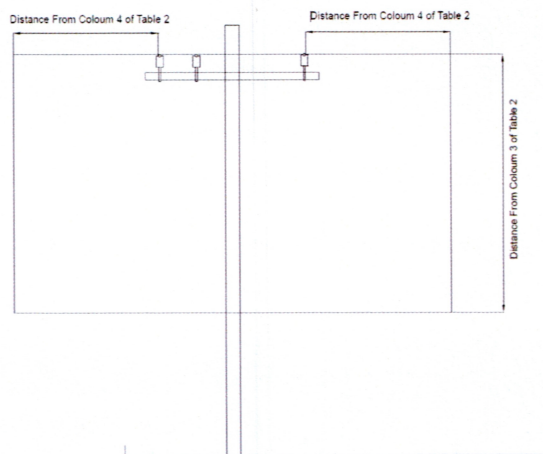
In 1999 I was part of the of the Electricity Engineers Association of NZ (Inc) (the EEA) personnel that deliberating on current version of ECP 34.

In my time in the industry I have had to interpret ECP 34 on many occasions.

Table 2 of ECP 34 – Safe Distances From Conductors Without Engineering Advice details the minimum distance that must be had between conductors and buildings or other structures.

The table clearly states in column 3 the minimum distance **beneath** conductors under normal conditions and in column 4 the minimum distance **to the side** of conductors under normal conditions. It does not provide distances in any direction as in Table 3.

This can only be interpreted as a rectangle that extends from the conductors to the minimum distance **beneath** the conductors and on each side of the conductors to the minimum distance **to the side** of the conductors.



I have always seen this requirement of ECP 34 defined in this way and never as radial distance from the conductor.

Yours faithfully

Brendon Quinn