

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the foundation services and support available from GM Poles.

The foundation of a pole is critical to the structural integrity of the entire system. GM Poles offers a range of foundation service and support options that clients can select to suit their project requirements and installation methodology.

GM Poles has the following levels of service and support:

1. Footing Guides
2. Soil Testing
3. Footing Design and Certification
4. Footing Installation
5. Footing Inspection

Further detail on each service is provided below.

FOOTING GUIDES

At the time of quoting, GM Poles nominates the pole being offered and provides a standard Footing Guide (e.g. bored pier or slab foundation) relevant to that product.

Footing Guides are based on **assumed soil conditions** and are provided to assist contractors and clients in estimating likely installation costs and space requirements.

Footing Guides are **preliminary information only**. They are not based on a review of site-specific constraints such as adjacent services, slopes, embankments, or actual geotechnical conditions.

Unless **explicitly stated otherwise**, loads shown on a Footing Guide are based on the maximum structural capacity of the pole and **may be greater than the actual loads** applicable to a specific project.

All Footing Guides are clearly marked "**Not For Construction**" (NFC) and are **not Engineer Certified**. The NFC designation cannot be removed unless GM Poles is engaged to provide a **Certified Footing Design**.

Where a Footing Guide is used without certification, it is used entirely at the client's risk. GM Poles accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of a Footing Guide for construction or installation purposes.

SOIL TESTING

GM Poles strongly recommends soil testing, as it serves two key purposes:

1. To identify the geotechnical conditions on site (e.g. fill, firm natural ground, rock); and
2. To identify potential installation issues (e.g. loose sand, shallow water table, unstable ground).

Understanding soil conditions allows clients to better manage installation risk and avoid unexpected costs resulting from unforeseen ground conditions.

In some instances, soil testing may be arranged by GM Poles. Alternatively, soil testing may be arranged by the client or contractor. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, responsibility for arranging and funding soil testing rests with the client or contractor.

Soil testing should be appropriately scoped so that the data obtained is suitable for pole foundation design. Considerations when planning a soil test include:

- Expected pier depths in average ground conditions;
- Proposed earthworks (cut and fill);
- Quantity and spacing of poles; and
- The type of geotechnical data required.

Indicative pier depths are provided on Footing Guides to assist with planning investigation depths. It is generally recommended that a borehole be undertaken at each floodlighting pole location. For pathway poles or car park installations, a representative sampling approach may be appropriate.

Geotechnical investigations undertaken for pavements or other structures often do not provide sufficient information and should not be assumed suitable for pole foundation design. Clients are encouraged to consult GM Poles to confirm appropriate soil testing requirements for their project.

FOOTING DESIGN AND CERTIFICATION

When GM Poles is engaged to provide a **Certified Footing Design**, the following information is reviewed where available:

- Geotechnical investigation results;
- Site photographs and satellite imagery;
- Project-specific pole loadings; and
- Historical site use and conditions.

Based on this information, GM Poles prepares a site-specific footing design and provides Engineering Certification for the design. Any changes to site conditions, pole configuration, or loading assumptions after certification may require re-assessment and design revision.

Certified Footing Designs aim to address site conditions and potential installation risks. This process assists contractors by ensuring the correct foundation design, reinforcement cages, excavation methods, equipment, and installation methodology are identified prior to arriving on site.

By providing a certified footing specification, GM Poles helps reduce risk for clients and supports safe and successful pole installation.

FOOTING INSTALLATION

GM Poles may offer footing installation services, subject to availability, project location, and suitability. This service is assessed on a project-by-project basis.

Where offered, footing installation is carried out in accordance with GM Poles standards and the GM Poles Certified Footing Design for the project.

Footing Installation includes:

- Coordination of excavation;
- Reinforcing cage assembly and placement; and
- Coordination of concrete supply and placement.

Footing Installation does not include:

- Electrical works or conduits; or
- Removal of excavated material from site.

FOOTING INSPECTION

A Footing Inspection is undertaken by a suitably qualified person to confirm that installation complies with the requirements of the Certified Footing Design.

Where applicable, installation certification may be issued following a satisfactory pre-pour inspection.

In some circumstances, soil testing may have been undertaken prior to earthworks, or pole locations may differ from original borehole locations. In such cases, the original design parameters may no longer be applicable and design revisions may be required.

Footing Inspections may also be requested where contractors have limited experience with pole foundation installation, to confirm correct interpretation and implementation of the design.

FOUNDATION CAGE

GM Poles can supply reinforcing cages that meet the requirements of either the Footing Guide or the Certified Footing Design. All reinforcing cages are manufactured to specification to ensure compliance with the relevant footing design requirements.

Given today's requirements around liability, apportioned responsibility, insurance, and job sign-off, it is important that clients clearly understand the foundation services and support available from GM Poles.

GM Poles encourages early engagement, ideally at the time of pole enquiry, to ensure the correct service level is identified and provided efficiently, helping to minimise delays and on-site inefficiencies.

Clients and prospective clients seeking further information on any of the services outlined above are encouraged to contact the GM Poles team to discuss project requirements.