

RCW 14.16.100 Guyed towers—Requirements—Definitions—

Application of section—Penalty. (1) Except as provided otherwise in this section, a guyed tower twenty-five feet or more in height that is located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town on land that is primarily rural or undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes, or that is primarily desert, and where such guyed tower's appearance is not otherwise governed by state or federal law, rule, or regulation, is subject to the following requirements:

(a) The tower must be painted in five foot high alternating bands of aviation orange and white.

(b) The tower must have a flashing light at the top of the tower. The light must be visible in clear air from a distance of two thousand feet when flashing. Such a light must also be visible with night vision goggles.

(c) The surface area under the footprint of the tower and the circular area surrounding each outer tower anchor, with a radius of six feet, should have a contrasting appearance with any surrounding vegetation.

(d) Two marker balls must be attached to and evenly spaced on each of the outside guy wires.

(e) The tower must have a seven foot long safety sleeve at each anchor point and must extend from the anchor point along each guy wire attached to the anchor point.

(2) Any guyed tower that was erected prior to June 12, 2014, must be modified as required under this section within one year of June 12, 2014.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Guyed tower" means a tower that is supported in whole or in part by guy wires and ground anchors or other means of support besides the superstructure of the tower itself.

(b) "Height" means the distance measured from the original grade at the base of the tower to the highest point of the tower.

(4) This section does not apply to:

(a) Guyed towers used for military purposes;

(b) Power poles or nonguyed tower structures owned and operated by an electric utility as defined in RCW 80.80.010;

(c) Any structure for which the primary purpose is to support telecommunications equipment, such as equipment for amateur radio and broadcast radio and television services regulated by the federal communications commission;

(d) Any guyed tower that is within fifty feet of a structure or vegetation of equal or greater height; and

(e) Any guyed tower that is attached to a large mobile motorized machine with a large visible base equipped with wheels, tracks, or skids and with winches and utilized to lift or pull heavy loads, such as a tower used to yard logs.

(5) A person who violates a provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2014 c 134 § 2.]

Intent—2014 c 134: "It is the intent of the legislature that pilots that engage in low flying activities, such as aerial applicators and search and rescue pilots, are provided with an as safe as possible flying environment. It is also the intent of the legislature to create a mechanism for alerting pilots of guyed towers

that may be erected at short notice and may be otherwise difficult to see from the air, posing an air safety hazard." [2014 c 134 § 1.]