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# ICPC Recommendation

## Recommendation No. 7

### Procedure To Be Followed Whilst Offshore Civil Engineering Work Is Undertaken In The Vicinity Of Active Submarine Cable Systems

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**Note:** Issue status suffix 'A' relates to minor format changes, not content.

## Contact for Enquiries and Proposed Changes

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document recommends the procedure to be followed whilst offshore civil engineering work is undertaken in the vicinity of active submarine cable systems.

## 2. PROCEDURE FOR OFFSHORE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK

### 2.1 Prior to Work Commencing

- 2.1.1 The Civil Engineering Company (CEC) responsible for the structural work shall discuss their plans with the responsible cable Maintenance Authority (MA) in order to determine if there are any known issues that need to be taken into account prior to design of the structure. These could include, for example, bathymetric or geological/geotechnical issues identified in the region during the cable route survey work and which may impact on the design or location of the structure.
- 2.1.2 The CEC shall work with the MA to accurately identify the physical location of the cable systems in the vicinity of the planned civil works. The MA shall endeavour to contact the recognised government authorities to determine the possible presence of other cables which may be uncharted. The location of cables may be marked with buoys if applicable. Depending on the circumstances, this location work may require either divers or a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to assist in the cable locating work. The cost of this location work is to the CEC's account.
- 2.1.3 The CEC and MA shall designate Project Co-ordinators (and deputies) for the duration of the work. All correspondence relating to the work shall be sent between these people. The designated staff need to be contactable, if required, 24 hrs per day.
- 2.1.4 When the design of the structure has been completed, the CEC shall advise the MA Project Co-ordinator of the scope and timing of marine activities planned to be undertaken within the vicinity of the cable(s), i.e.: dredging, pile excavation, support or work barge ship anchoring, cable location activities, geological surveys, etc.
- 2.1.5 Once the timing of the work is known, the MA or Network Operations Centre (NOC) for the cable system(s) shall provide timely advice to all cable owners and cable capacity users of the potentially hazardous work. The MA or NOC shall ensure that all restoration plans are current for the cables affected by the civil work.
- 2.1.6 The MA shall ensure the CEC is aware that the CEC will be liable for the direct cost (i.e. cable repair and traffic restoration costs) of any cable repair operation arising from the work undertaken by the CEC or their sub-contractors. The MA shall ensure that the CEC arranges adequate insurance to cover this risk
- 2.1.7 The MA and the CEC shall enter into a binding legal agreement that clearly defines the legal obligations of both parties in the event that the existing submarine cable(s) is/are damaged during the construction or future maintenance of the structure. Such agreement shall also identify the remedies applicable in the event that the submarine cable cannot be maintained after the completion of the structure.

- 2.1.8 The agreement shall also provide for arbitration in a neutral forum. This will help facilitate speedy resolution of any disagreements with arbitrators who, ideally, are familiar with the subject in a commercial setting.

## **2.2 Immediately Prior to Work Commencing**

- 2.2.1 The CEC shall confirm the physical location of the cable(s) in the vicinity of the structural foundation work to ensure the cable(s) have not moved since the initial location work referenced in paragraph 2.1.2 was undertaken (wave/tidal/current action, monsoon, dragged by anchors, etc).
- 2.2.2 The CEC Project Co-ordinator shall advise the MA Project Co-ordinator that work is about to commence and provide the MA Project Co-ordinator with an emergency contact number (usually of the work vessel undertaking the hazardous work near the cables) in order to allow the MA Project Co-ordinator to immediately halt the work if required.

## **2.3 During the Work**

- 2.3.1 The CEC Project Co-ordinator shall keep the MA Project Co-ordinator informed of the work progress and, in particular, any variations to the work plan previously notified/agreed.
- 2.3.2 If deemed necessary, the MA shall provide (and the CEC shall allow) a MA representative to be on board the work vessel during the hazardous work in order to oversee the operation and ensure that it follows the agreed plan.

## **2.4 After The Work Is Complete**

- 2.4.1 The CEC shall provide the MA with a copy of the final engineering drawings of the work in order to enable the MA, and their contracted cable maintenance supplier, to maintain the cables located in the vicinity of the work.

## **3. REFERENCES**

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
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## **4. DEFINITIONS**

The following words, acronyms and abbreviations are referred to in this document.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
CEC	Civil Engineering Company
MA	Maintenance Authority
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
NOC	Network Operations Centre

## **5. ATTACHMENTS**

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
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