

**Application for Excavation Permit for
Ground Investigation Works on Public Road -
Circulation of Proposal to Utility Undertakers**

Introduction

Excavation Permits from Director or Highways are required for such works as sheet-piling, hoarding, trial pits and ground investigation works on public roads under section 8 of the Crown Land Ordinance (Chapter 28). Failure to obtain the necessary permit would constitute an offence under the Ordinance.

Protection of Public Utilities

2. A considerable number of cases have been reported on damage to public utilities caused by ground investigation works on public roads. This damage arose as a result of failure to identify the location of utilities beneath the roads or to take necessary precautions prior to commencement of the works. For the protection of public utilities, Highways Department has decided that it is necessary to tighten control over ground investigation works on public road by introducing a new procedure in dealing with applications for Excavation Permit for such works.

New Procedure for Excavation Permits for Ground Investigation Works

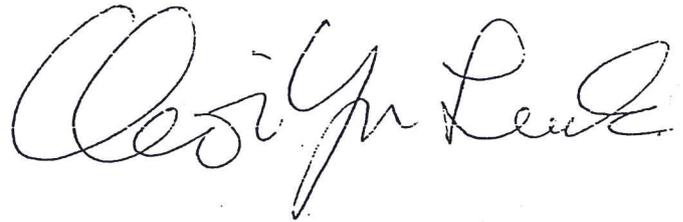
3. Under the new procedure effective from 1 October 1996, an application for Excavation Permit for ground investigation works must be accompanied by documentary evidence that the works proposal has been circulated by the applicant to all utilities undertakers and that their requirements have been properly responded to. The utility undertakers, a list of which is attached in Appendix A, have agreed to respond to circulations of ground investigation works within 21 working days of receipt. APs and RSEs are advised to note this new procedure and to take action accordingly.

Excavation Permits for Works Other than Ground Investigation

4. The documentary evidence referred to in the preceding paragraph is not required for applications for Excavation Permits for works on public roads other than ground investigation.

Precaution

5. After the issue of the required Excavation Permit for ground investigation works, APs and RSEs should also note that as a precaution, suitable investigations (eg hand-dug trial pits) to ascertain the exact position of the utilities in the vicinity should be carried out before using any heavy plant for road excavation to avoid damage to public utilities.



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