

Requirements for an Excavation and Lateral Support Plan
Building (Administration) Regulation 8(1)(bc)

Excavation, even if shallow, can be dangerous if not properly designed. Authorized persons and registered structural engineers are reminded to take adequate precautions to ensure public safety whenever excavation is found necessary as part of the work.

2. In general terms, excavation and lateral support plans are required under Building (Administration) Regulation 8(1)(bc) to be submitted for approval where excavations of substantial depth are to be carried out, the collapse of which would cause serious consequences.

3. For guidance, an excavation and lateral support plan will be required to be submitted for approval where the excavation to be carried out are :

- (a) deeper than 4.5 m, and greater than 5 m in length; and
- (b) liable to affect any road, building, structure, slope steeper than 30° or water main 75 mm in diameter or greater, the affected area being defined as within the 45° line up from the base of the excavation to the ground surface.

4. Where the above conditions apply, applications for consent to commence works will not be given if an excavation and lateral support plan, as prescribed in Building (Administration) Regulation 8(1)(bc), has not been submitted and approved.

5. It is permissible to have the excavation and lateral support plans submitted in two stages, provided that the first stage submission demonstrates the feasibility of the entire scheme. Plans submitted at the first stage should show the lateral support system, for example sheet piles or a diaphragm wall, together with a strutting layout and the construction sequence. The supporting geotechnical documentation should also be provided. Calculations submitted at the first stage should include realistic ground movement estimates for the entire works. The second stage submission normally will include the structural details of the lateral support system, including detailing of the struts for each stage of excavation according to the approved first stage submission.



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Building Authority

Ref. : BD GP/BREG/C/14

First issued October 1991

This revision November 1993 (AD/SE, GGE) - Para. 5 added

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