



ICPC Recommendation

Recommendation No. 7

Procedure to be Followed Whilst Civil Engineering or Offshore Construction Work is Undertaken in the Vicinity of Active Submarine Cable Systems

Note: The presence of a Suffix letter after the Issue number indicates inclusion of updated peripheral information that does not change the wording of this Recommendation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document recommends the procedure to be followed whilst civil engineering or offshore construction work is undertaken in the vicinity of active submarine cable systems. This recommendation does not consider offshore windfarms, please refer to ICPC Recommendation No.13.

2. PROCEDURE FOR OFFSHORE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK

2.1 Prior to Work Commencing

- 2.1.1 The Construction Company (CC) responsible for the structural work shall discuss their plans with the responsible cable owner in order to determine operational and maintenance issues and liabilities that may impact on the submarine cable or the planned structure.
- 2.1.2 The CC shall work with the cable owner to accurately identify the physical location of the cable systems in the vicinity of the planned civil works. cable owner. 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 CC's account.
- 2.1.3 The CEC and cable owners shall designate single point of contacts (and other backup emergency contacts) 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 CC shall advise the cable owner single point of contact 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 cable owner 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 cable owner or NOC shall ensure that all restoration plans are current for the cables affected by the civil work.
- 2.1.6 The cable owner shall ensure the CC is aware that the CC 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 CC or their sub-contractors. The cable owner shall ensure that the CC arranges adequate insurance to cover this risk
- 2.1.7 The cable owner and the CC shall enter into a binding legal agreement that clearly defines the legal obligations of both parties in the event that the existing submarines 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 CC 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 CC Single point of contact shall advise the cable owner Single point of contact that work is about to commence and provide the cable owner Single point of contact with an emergency contact number (usually of the work vessel undertaking the hazardous work near the cables) in order to allow the cable owner Single point of contact to immediately halt the work if required.

2.3 During the Work

- 2.3.1 The CC Single point of contact shall keep the cable owner Single point of contact informed of the work progress and, in particular, any variations to the work plan previously notified/agreed.
- 2.3.2 If deemed necessary, the cable owner shall provide (and the CC shall allow) a cable owner 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 CC shall provide the cable owner with a copy of the final engineering drawings of the work in order to enable the cable owner, and their contracted cable maintenance supplier, to maintain the cables located in the vicinity of the work.

3. REFERENCES

Document Number	Title
ICPC Rec # 13	The Proximity of offshore renewable installations & Submarine cable infrastructure in Coastal Waters
ICPC Rec # 5	Standardization of Cable Awareness Charts

4. DEFINITIONS

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

Term	Definition
CC	Construction Company
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
NOC	Network Operations Centre

5. ATTACHMENTS

Document Number	Title
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