Penalties

A competent person failing to perform cable detection work to the reasonably expected standard may have his/her approval as a competent person suspended for a period up to 12 months.

Note: This is NOT a legal document and is prepared for general information only.
Introduction

The Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation requires that a competent person shall undertake cable detection to ascertain the existence, alignment and depth of underground electricity cables before excavation.

Cable detection is a specialized job. The competent person must be approved by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services and shall carry out the cable detection according to the steps as stipulated in the “Code of Practice on Working Near Electricity Supply Lines”.

The competent person shall pay attention to the following items:
1. shall not delegate his duty of cable detection work to another person;
2. may carry out cable detection work with the assistance of other persons, but such persons shall be directly supervised by that competent person;
3. shall carry out cable detection work in a manner without causing damage to the underground electricity cables;
4. if there is any difficulty in detecting the underground cables, assistance from the power company must be sought;
5. shall provide a “Competent Person Written Report” to the responsible person of the work site and give a site briefing to the site personnel.
A competent person should follow the following underground cable detection procedures:

1. Obtain works site drawings and electricity supplier's cable plans.

2. Carry out passive cable detection and propose trial hole locations.

3. Supervise the excavation of trial holes in order to expose all target underground electricity cables.

4. Place a signal clamp around the cable and carry out toroidal active cable detection in order to ascertain the alignment and depth of the unexposed underground electricity cables.
5. Mark the alignment and depth of underground electricity cables on the ground.

6. Take photos to record the cable detection process.

7. Provide a “Competent Person Written Report” to the working party.*

*Note: “Working Party” means any person, including contractor, site contractor and site personnel, concerned with planning, designing, organizing and supervising works near underground electricity cables or overhead electricity lines.

8. Conduct site briefing to site personnel to explain the contents of the Report and the safety precautions.

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