

11 Measures for Underground Cable Protection

(2018 Edition)

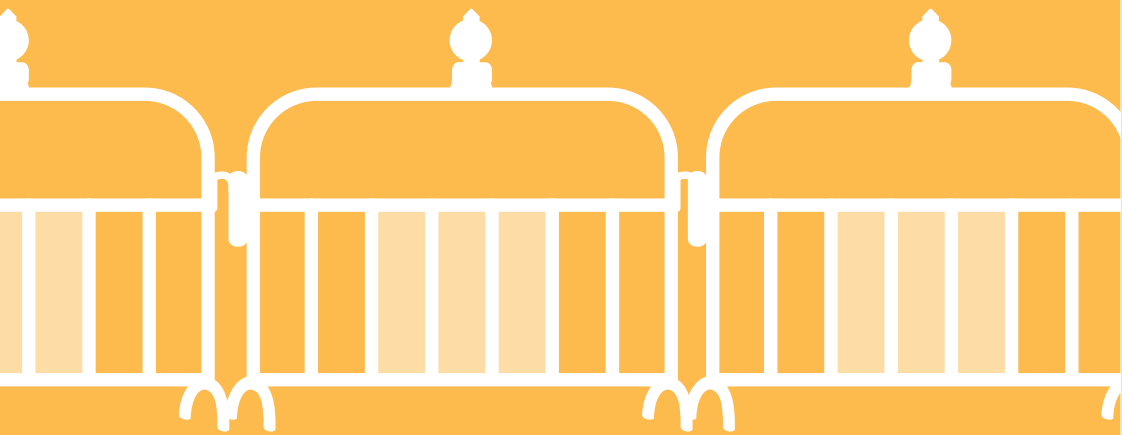


Introduction

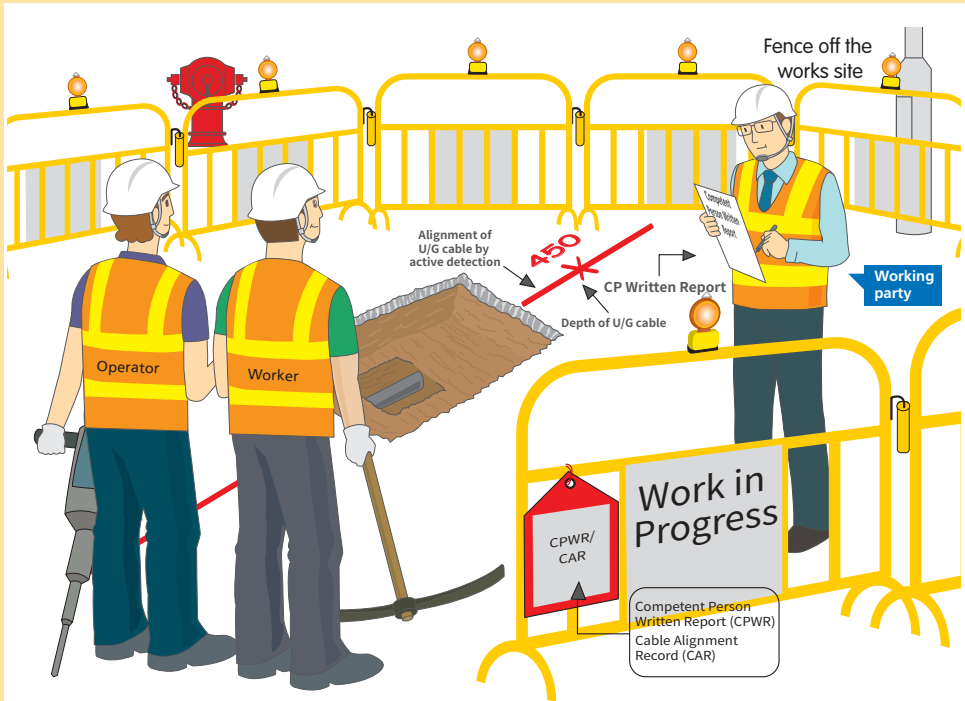
Damage to electricity supply lines may cause electrical accidents and power interruptions. Fatal accidents and serious injuries may occur during excavation close to underground electricity cables and during lifting operations by cranes or hoists near overhead electricity lines. In addition, damage may also cause power interruptions that could affect thousands of homes and businesses.

To prevent electrical accidents and power interruptions, the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation requires that, prior to carrying out works in the vicinity of underground electricity cables owned by electricity suppliers, the working party shall appoint Competent Person to carry out cable detection work and complete the respective reasonable step in order to ascertain the existence of these electricity cables or lines (please refer to the promotion leaflet "Approved Competent Person 13 Steps for Underground Cable Detection" for details). In the course of works, all the 11 reasonable measures as mentioned in this leaflet should also be taken to protect these cables or lines from damage.

Any person works in the vicinity of electricity supply lines, and has not carried out all reasonable steps and all reasonable measures, will be treated as contravening the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation and may be liable for prosecution.

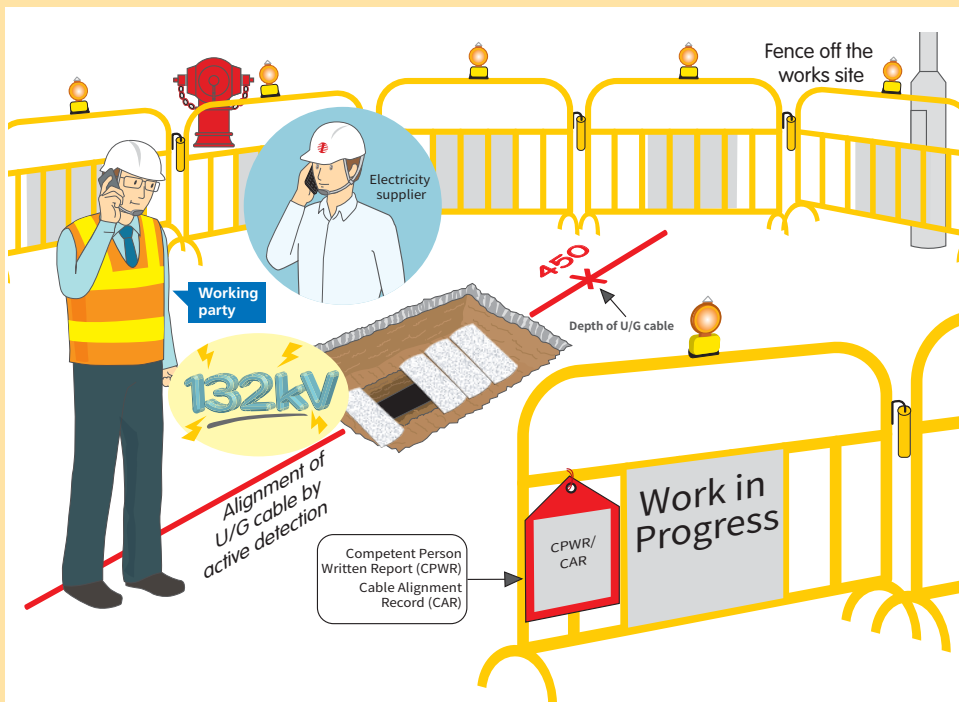


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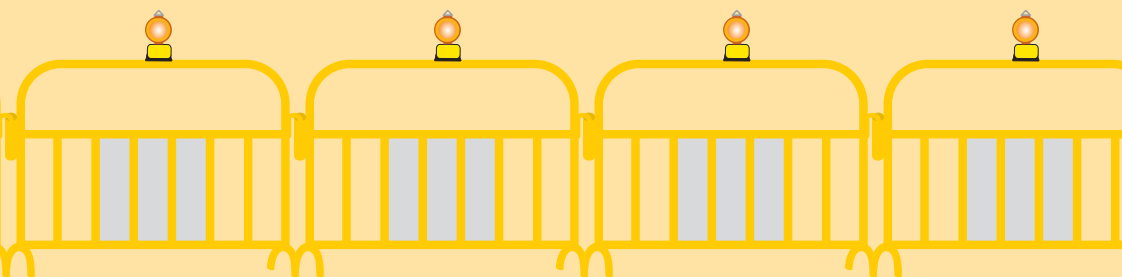
Measure 1

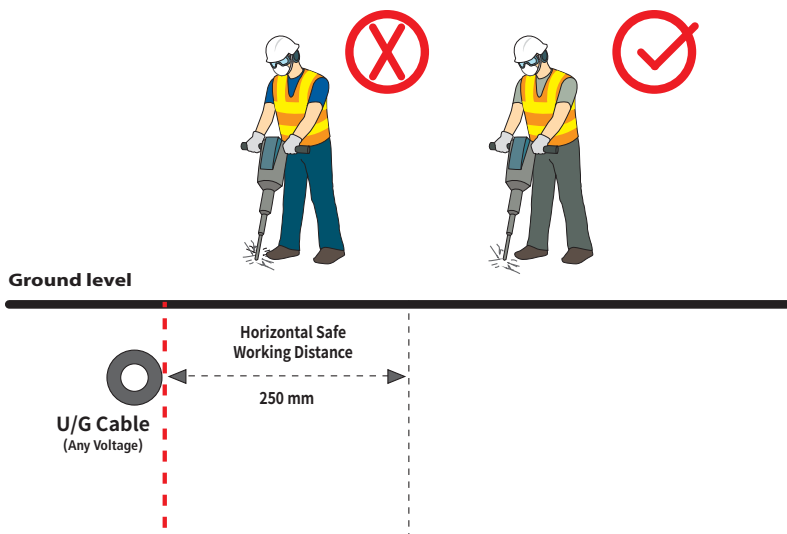
Working party should brief the site workers of the site markings (both alignment and depth) according to Competent Person Written Report.



Measure 2

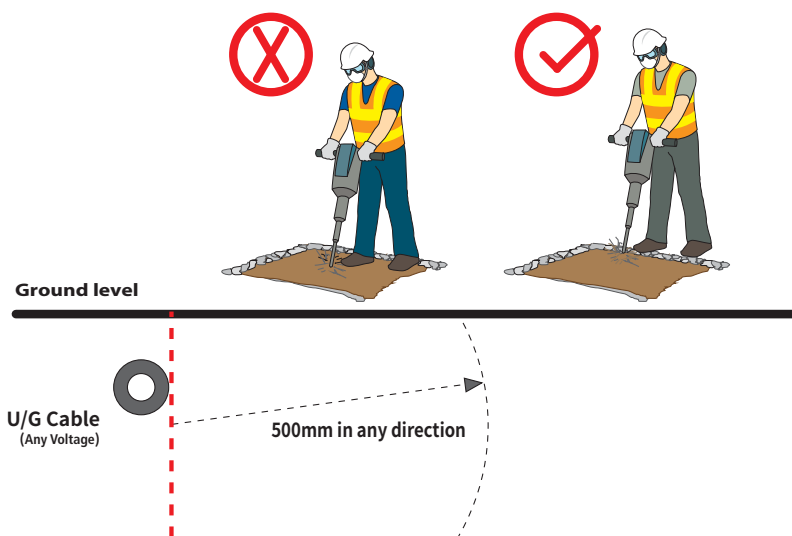
If the voltage of the cable is 132 kV or above, the electricity supplier must be informed before excavation.





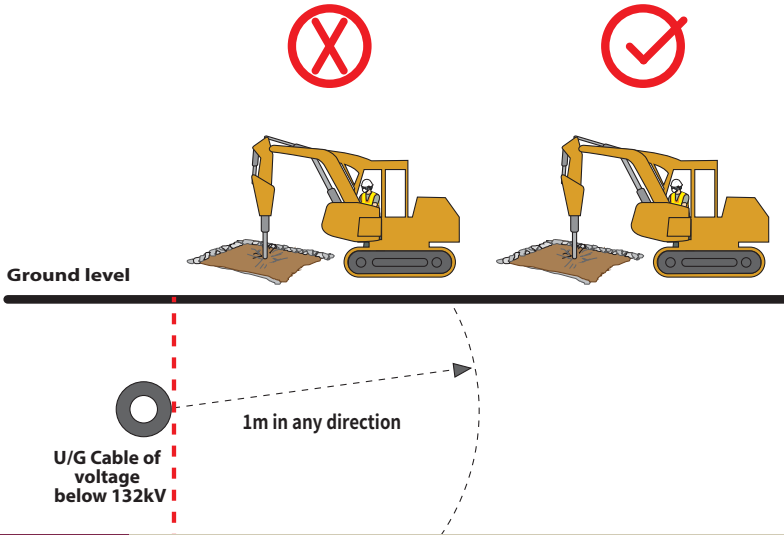
Measure 3

Minimum horizontal safe working distance between any U/G cable and the point where hand-held power tools are used for breaking out paved concrete surface.



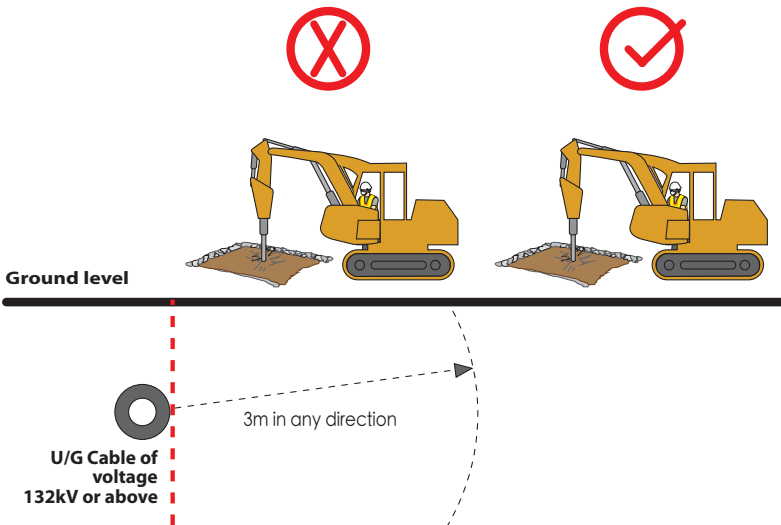
Measure 4

Minimum safe working distance between any U/G cable and the point where hand-held power tools are used for excavation.



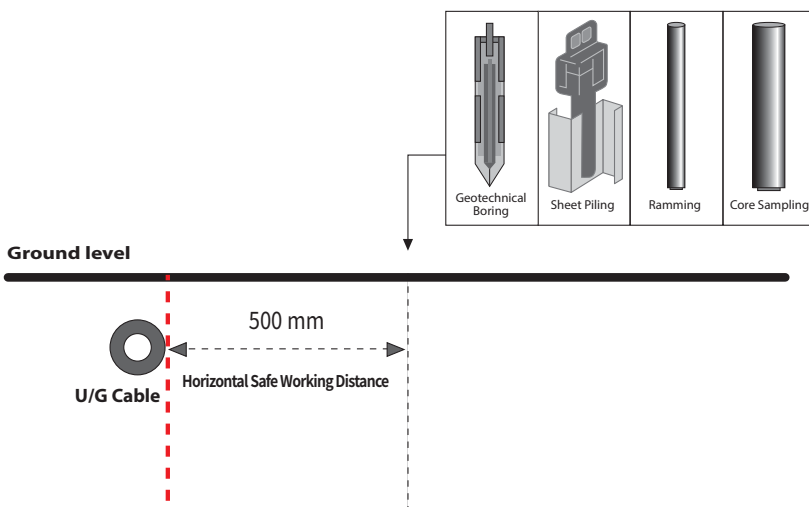
Measure 5

Minimum safe working distance between U/G cables of voltage below 132 kV and the point where mechanical excavators are used.



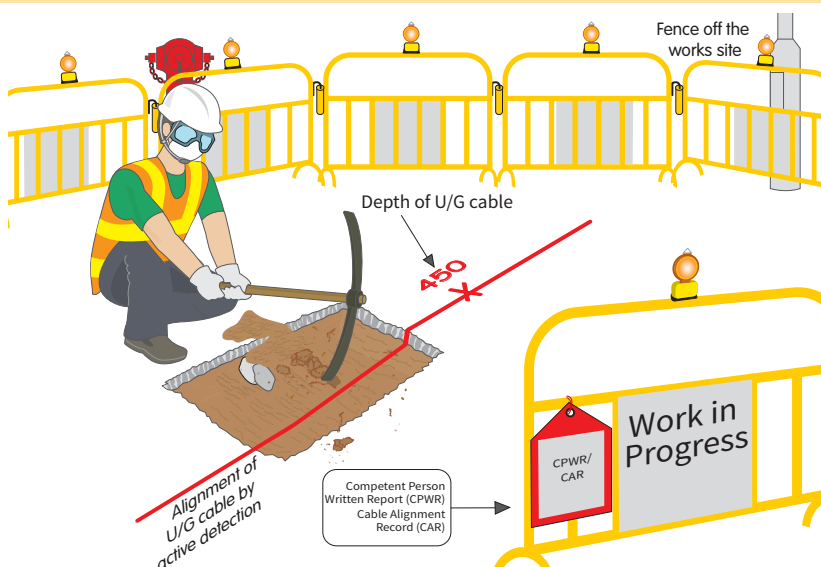
Measure 6

Minimum safe working distance between U/G cables of voltage 132 kV or above and the point where mechanical excavators are used.



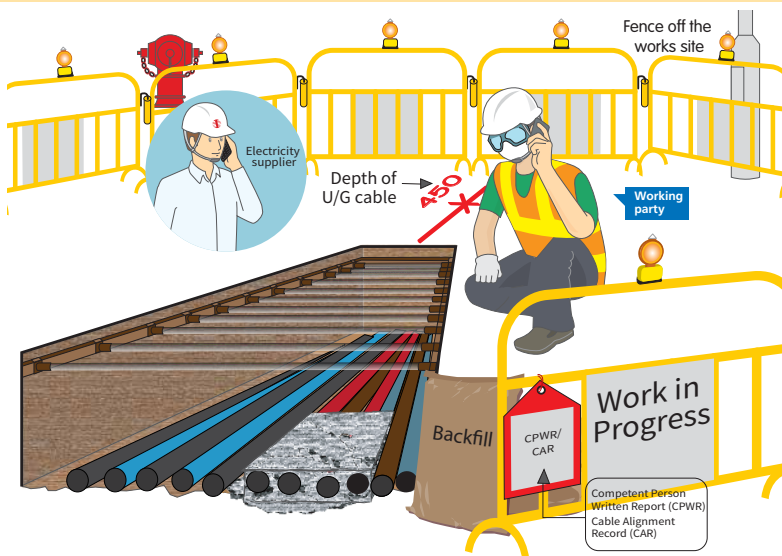
Measure 7

Minimum safe working distance of vertical, horizontal or inclined penetration works.



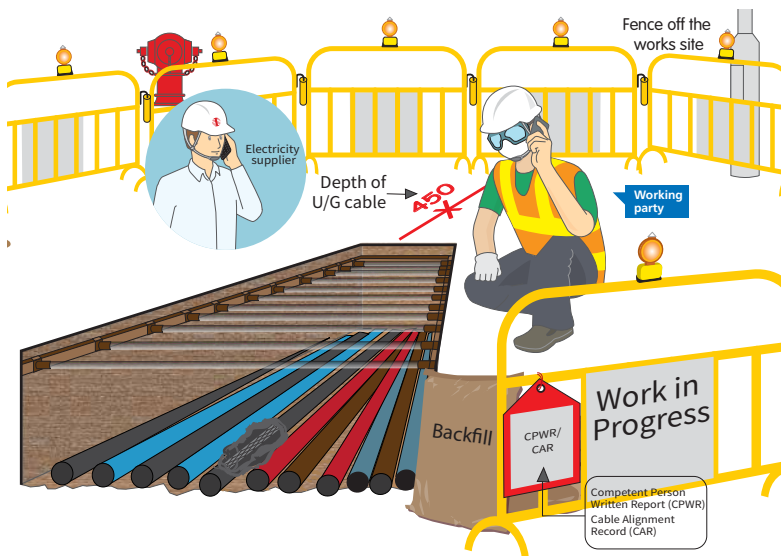
Measure 8

Use hand tools carefully to expose underground electricity cables.



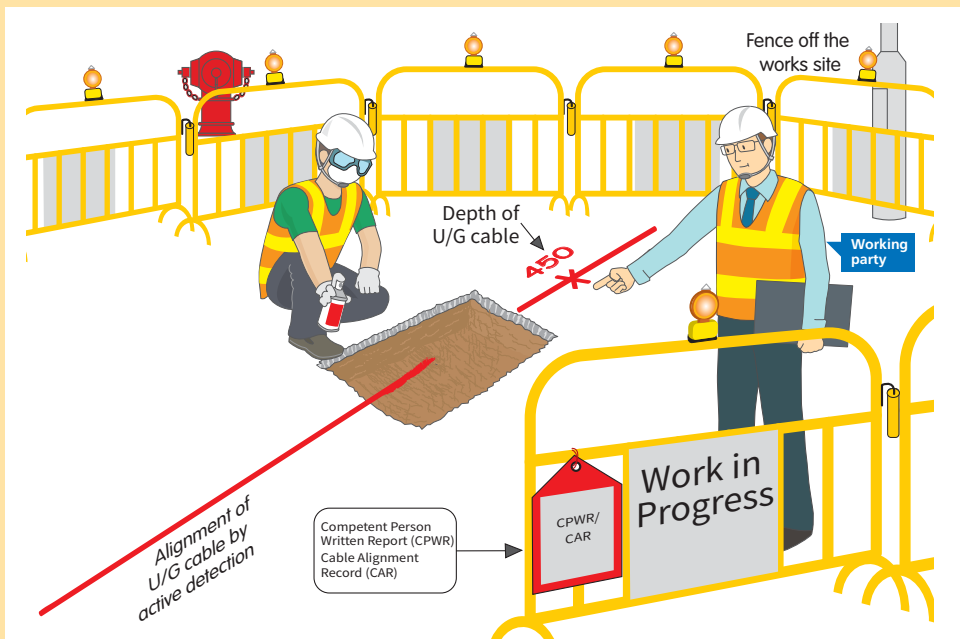
Measure 9

Provide proper support and protection to the exposed cables. Working party should contact electricity supplier in case of abnormal findings from underground cables (e.g. concrete surrounding for U/G cables) on site to seek technical advice.



Measure 10

Provide proper backfilling for the cables. Approach electricity supplier to follow-up the damaged or missing cable protection materials.



Measure 11

Working party shall ensure the site markings (both alignment and depth) identified by the CP are available at site from time to time.



Penalties

Any person who contravenes the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months.

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

Electricity Legislation  **EMSD**

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel.: (852) 1823
Fax: (852) 2895 4929
Website: www.emsd.gov.hk
E-mail: info@emsd.gov.hk