भारत सरकार **Government of India**
रेल मंत्रालय **Ministry of Railways**
(रेलवे बोर्ड **Railway Board)**

No. 2024/CE-I/CAO(C)Workshop/part-2 New Delhi, dated: 03.06.2024

The Principal Chief Engineers
All Indian Railways.

Sub: Instructions for incorporating the JPO, Circular etc. Provisions in the Tender Document for all works requiring digging work close to Railway signaling, telecommunication, electrical etc. Cables. .

Ref: (i) Board's letter No. 2021/Tele/5(2)/3-Part(1)(3425647) dated 12.06.2023

Board vide letter under reference (i) "Telecom Circular No. 09/2023" has issue a Joint Procedure Order (JPO) on the subject 'procedure for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of Signaling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables'. (Copy enclosed)

In regard to lodging FIR with RPF in cases of work being executed by authorised contractors who have been duly permitted to execute the works, Zonal Railways are requested to ensure strict compliance of para 9 containing in Board's letter under reference (i) "Telecom Circular No. 09/2023" which is reiterated as under:-

'Para-9:- Railway will not lodge FIR with RPF in cases of works being executed by authorized contractors of Railways who has been duly permitted to execute the works'.

DA:- As above.

03.06.24

(गौरव)
निदेशक सिविल इंजीनियरिंग(जी)
रेलवे बोर्ड
[Phone: 030-47598(Rly) : 011-23307598(MTNL)]
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Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by SACHIN SUMAN
Date: 2025.09.12 18:42:06 IST
Reason: IREPS-CRIS
Location: New Delhi

भारत सरकार Government of India
रेल मंत्रालय Ministry of Railways
रेलवे बोर्ड (Railway Board)

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

Telecom Circular No.09/2023

सं.2021/Tele/5(2)/3-Part(1)(3425647) नई दिल्ली, दिनांक: 12.06.2023

The GM/CMD/MD/PCAO/CAO,
All Indian Railways, KRCL, PUs, CORE, COFMOW
(As per standard list)

The DGs/Directors
RDSO, NAIR, All CTIs

Sub.: Procedure for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of Signalling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables

Ref.: JPO issued vide Board's letter No.2003/Tele/RCIL/1Pt.IX dated 24.06.2013 (Telecom Circular No.17/2013)

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A Joint Procedure Order (JPO) for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of underground Signalling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables was issued last vide Board's letter No.2003/Tele/RCIL/1Pt.IX dated 24.06.2013 (Telecom Circular No.17/2013). Notwithstanding the provisions contained in the JPO for protection of cables, a significant number of cable-cut incidents and practical difficulties in implementation of certain provisions of the said JPO were reported.

Board, therefore, constituted a committee of SAG officers to revisit the JPO. Based on the recommendations of the committee, Board (MI) has approved broad guidelines for procedure to be adopted by Zonal Railways for protection of cables while undertaking digging work in their vicinity (**Annexure**). These guidelines are in supersession of JPO issued vide reference above.

Zonal Railways are requested to issue local instructions/guidelines/JPO implementing these broad guidelines within a month of issue of this letter. Zonal Railways may also ensure that these local instructions/guidelines/JPO are also made part of all tenders for works in the vicinity of cables in accordance with the instructions issued by Civil Engineering Dte of Railway Board vide letter No.2023/CE-I/EDCE(G)/Misc. Dated 18.04.2023.

DA: As above

12/6/23

(राकेश रंजन)
कार्यकारी निदेशक (दूरसंचार विकास)
दूरभाष: 011-47843012, 030-43012
ई.मेल: edtd@rb.railnet.gov.in

Copy to:

1. PSO to M(I) for kind information of Member/Infra
2. ED/SD, EDEE/M, EDCE/G, ED/GS/C-II for information & ensuring implementation of guidelines in letter & spirit
3. PCSTE, PCE & PCEE, All Indian Railways

(Annexure to letter No. 2021/Tele/5(2)/3-Part(1)(3425647) dated 12.06.2023)

Annexure

Guidelines for protection of cables while doing work its vicinity

1. Cable route marking for all types of cable must be made available block section wise on Railnet.
2. Before allowing the contractor to work near the tracks, the work executing agency (like SrDSTE/SrDEN/SrDEE or DyCSTE/DyCEE/DyCE etc.) shall ensure that the permission has been granted by the division to the contractor in accordance with the local instructions / JPO to work in the vicinity of the cables. Zonal railways shall devise suitable mechanism and timelines for the obtaining/granting such permission.
3. In case of works being taken up by the State Government, National Highway Authority etc., zonal railways shall devise mechanism for shifting the cables or for proper protection of cables before granting permission to work.
4. The engineering control shall keep all the information regarding any works being done near the track. S&T and electrical control shall obtain this information from engineering control. These controls shall coordinate among themselves to ensure that no work is done in the vicinity of the track without proper permission.
5. The concerned SE/P.Way/SE/Works/SE/Sig/SE/Tele SE/Electrical (TRD or G) or RailTel supervisors supervising the work of the contractor shall ensure that the existing emergency sockets are not damaged due to their importance in providing communication during accident/emergency.
6. For all new works, cable shifting should be a mandatory part of DPR and estimate. For ongoing works, Zonal Railways may sanction works for cable shifting if necessary through contingency/supplementary/revised estimate where provision does not exist. However, in case zonal railways decide not to shift cables (due to any reason) then protection of cable shall be ensured by the zonal railways during execution of the work.
7. Penalty to be imposed for damages to cable shall be as under:

Cable damaged	**Penalty per location**
Only Quad cable or Signaling cable	₹ 1.0 Lakh
Only OFC	₹ 1.25 Lakh
Both OFC & Quad	₹ 1.5 Lakh
Electrical Cable	₹ 1.0 Lakh

8. Penalty should be levied on the contractor when they work without permission or resort to careless working without making arrangements for protecting cables and other utilities. Based upon the local conditions and practices, zonal railway shall devise its own conditions for examining and levying penalty. For each cable cut, a joint report at the level of supervisors should be prepared on the same day and it should become the basis for levying penalty and fixing responsibility. Joint note should be forwarded by SrDSTE/SrDEE to the executive in-charge of the work. The executive in-charge of the work shoud act and decide on the cable cut case within 15 days under information to SrDSTE/SrDEE as the case may be. There should be provision of appeal by contractors within one month of notice for levying penalty at ADRM level. Decision of ADRM shall be final and binding upon both parties.
9. Railways will not lodge FIR with RPF in cases of works being executed by authorized contractors of Railways who have been duly permitted to execute the works.
10. Zonal Railways shall issue local instructions/JPO for protection of cables while undertaking works in the vicinity of railway tracks in line with this guideline. Zonal Railways shall also ensure that such instructions become part of their tender document within one month of the issue of the local instructions. Suitable action against erring officials shall also be incorporated in these instructions if the same is not adhered to.

EASTERN RAILWAY

No. SG.215/13/0

Dated: 20th Oct, 2023.

CE/G, CESE, CE/C-I, CSE, CCE,
Eastern Railway,
Kolkata.

Sub: JPO regarding procedure for undertaking digging work, in the vicinity of Signalling, Electrical and Telecommunication cable based on, Telecom Circular No.9/2023.

Ref: Telecom. Circular No. 09/2023, vide Rly. Bd's letter No. 2021/Tele /5(2)/3-Part(1)(3425647) dt. 12.06.2023.

JPO towards implementing board guidelines on procedure for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of Signalling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables in accordance with Rly. Board's Telecom Circular no 09/2023 is prepared and circulated for information and necessary action please.

DA: JPO .

Suravi 20/10/23

(Suravi Biswas)
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer/Tele/HQ,
for Principal Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer

Copy to:

1. Secy. To GM - for appraisal of GM.
2. PCSTE, PCE, PCEE, CAO/Con,
3. DRM/HWH/SDAH/ASN/MLDT
4. CPM/Gati Shakti/HWH/SDAH/ASN/MLDT
5. CSTE/Proj & CSTE/Con., CE/Con, CEE/Con.
6. ADRM/HWH/SDAH/ASN/MLDT
7. Sr.DSTE/ Sr.DEN/Co-ord /Sr.DEE - HWH/SDAH/ASN/MLDT,
8. Director/Telecom, Rly. Board , New Delhi.

COS/W(II)
Put in file.
20/10/23

Suravi 20/10/23

(Suravi Biswas)
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer/Tele/HQ,
for Principal Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer

EASTERN RAILWAY

S&T JPO No. - 94

JOINT PROCEDURE ORDER FOR UNDERTAKING DIGGING WORK IN THE VICINITY OF UNDERGROUND SIGNALING, ELECTRICAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION CABLES.

1. i)Cable route plan must be made available on Railnet site with all details so that Engineering/Electrical/S&T official can easily identify the exact location of cable. Executing department should download the cable route plan from Railnet site.
   ii) If cable route plan is not availa. .ble on Railnet site, S&T department /Electrical department shall ensure that position of cable to be marked to the executing officials, prior to commencement of digging on request from executing department.
   iii)In case of available cable route plan is old and not matching as per site, S&T / Electrical department ensure the position of cable by physical marking to avoid damaging of cables for item ii) & iii) cross trench may be proposed by S&T/Electrical officials at an interval of 50 meters or as decided by the site officials before giving cable route marking. For cross pit manpower shall be arranged by executing department.
2. Department concern will apply for permission. Permission should be given within 3 days, if it is not obtained by 7 days, issue to be forwarded to ADRM. If SSE/Sig./SSE/Tele/SSE/Elec. confirms that there is no cable at the vicinity, shall give permission immediately. Permission may be given through Control message or any suitable means.
3. Before allowing the agency to work at the vicinity of cable, the work executing agency (like Sr.DSTE/Sr.DEN/Sr.DEE or Dy.CSTE/Dy.CEE/Dy.CE etc.) shall ensure that the permission has been granted by the division to the agency in accordance with the local instructions/JPO with the intimation to Engineering/S&T/Electrical control.
4. After ensuring that the executing agency fully understood the S&T/Electrical cable route plan, shall permit the work with authority to ensure that the safety of the cable is not in danger. The basic responsibility for safeguarding cable at the place of execution will be of the department executing the work and the agency.
5. Still any cable cut occurs, both executing officials and S&T/Electrical official jointly engage to restore the cable cut to avoid detention of train operation. Engineering/S&T/Electrical Control should monitor jointly the restoration process of cable cut as earliest as possible with extending necessary support. SSE/Sig./SSE/Tel/SSE/Elec, of the section should be alerted to attend any cable cut restoration with man and materials when digging work in progress at the vicinity of cable.

(P. S. Bhattacharyya)	(K. C. Bairwa)	(Hoti Lal Meena)	(S.K. Mandal)	(Manoj Khan)
18.10.23	18.7.2023	18.X.23	18/10/23	18.10.23
C C E	CS E	C E S E	CE /G	CE/C-I/ER

6. In case of works being taken up by the State Government, National Highway Authority etc., Divisions shall devise mechanism for shifting the cables or for proper protection of cables before granting permission to work. However, on the date of execution, S&T/Electrical/Engineering Control should be informed.
7. Engineering/S&T/Electrical Control of Divisions shall keep all the information regarding any works being done near the track by their respective department. Engineering/S&T/Electrical Controls shall coordinate among themselves to ensure that no work is done in the vicinity of the track without proper permission. In Control the information shall be maintained related to the nature of work executing by department, name of the executing supervisor, agency and mobile no.
8. The concerned SSE/P.Way/SSE/Works/SSE/Sig/SE/Tele SSE/Electrical(TRD or G) or RailTel supervisors supervising the work of the agency shall ensure that the existing emergency sockets are not damaged due to their importance in providing communication during accident/emergency.
9. For all new works, cable shifting should be a mandatory part of DPR estimate. For ongoing works, Division may sanction works for cable/utility shifting, if necessary, through contingency/supplementary/revised estimate where provision does not exist. However, in case Division decides not to shift cables (due to any reason) then protection of cable shall be ensured by the Division during execution of the work.
10. New OFC/Quad cable shall be laid as far as possible to Railway Boundary at the extent possible. Within the Yard cable to be laid based on feasibility, discretion of site supervisors.
11. In case damage is caused to OFC/quad cable/Electrical cable during execution of work. The agency is liable to pay penalty for damaging the cable. Penalty shall not be levied in the following cases:-
    - i) The detail cable route plan not available at Railnet site or not ensure cable route by giving marking in time.
    - ii) The alignment of the cable does not tally with the information provided.
    - iii) S&T department/Electrical/RailTel shall depute their representative for marking/guarding the cables against the predetermined programme.

18.10.23 16.X.2023 18.X.23 18/10/23 19/10/23

(P. S. Bhattacharyya) CCE | (K. C. Bairwa) CSE | (Hoti Lal Meena) CESE | (S.K. Mandal) CE/G | (Manoj Khan) CE/C-I/ER

Penalty to be imposed for damages to cable shall be as under:

i) When they work without permission.

ii) Not following guidelines mention in JPO regarding procedure for - undertaking digging work, in the vicinity of Signaling, Electrical and Telecommunication cable.

Cable damaged	**Penalty per location in Rs.**
Only Quad cable or Signaling cable	1.0 Lakh
Only OFC	1.25 Lakh
Both OFC & Quad	1.5 Lakh
Electrical Cable	1.0 Lakh

12. For each cable cut, a joint report at the level of supervisors should be prepared on the same day and it should become the basis for levying penalty and fixing responsibility. Joint note should be forwarded by Sr. DSTE/Sr. DEE to the executive in-charge of the work. The executive in-charge of the work should act and decide on the cable cut case within 15 days under information to Sr. DSTE/Sr. DEE as the case may be.

    There should be provision of appeal by agency within one month of notice for levying penalty at ADRM level, decision of ADRM shall be final and binding upon all parties.

13. Railways will not lodge FIR with RPF in cases of works being executed by authorized agency of Railways who have been duly permitted to execute the works.

14. Divisions shall issue local instructions to all concerns based on the JPO for protection of cable while undertaking works in the vicinity of cable in line with this guideline. Divisions/Construction/Project/Other executing unit shall also ensure that such instructions become part of their tender document within immediate effect of the issue of the local instructions. Suitable action against erring officials shall also be incorporated in these instructions if the same is not adhered to.

18.10.23 18/X/2023 18.X.23 18/10/23 18/10/23

(P. S. Bhattacharyya) (K. C. Balrwa) (Hoti Lal Meena) (S.K. Mandal)(Manoj Khan)

CCE CS E CESE CE /G CE/C-I/ER