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

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)
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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

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by RAJEEV KUMAR GUPTA
Date: 2024.12.20 14:45:22 IST
Reason: IREPS-CRIS
Location: New Delhi

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.

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

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

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

No. 2023/CE-I/EDCE(G)/Misc. **New Delhi, Dated: 18.04.2023**

The General Managers,
All Zonal Railways.

Sub: Instructions for incorporating the JPO, Circular etc. provisions in the Tender Document for all Works requiring digging work close to Railway signaling, telecom, electrical etc. cables

Ref: (i) No.2010/Tele/3(5)/1 Pt (3346793) New Delhi dated 29.09.22
(ii) Telecom Circular 17/2013 containing JPO for undertaking digging work in vicinity of Cables

Due to increase in cable cuts, a letter dated 29.09.22 under reference (i) above was written by Member (Infra) to all GMs advising the following:

i. Zonal Railways to take necessary steps to ensure strict compliance of JPO for undertaking any digging work in the vicinity of cables.
ii. Proper coordination among various departments undertaking any work near/along the track.
iii. Provision of utility relocation in the estimates and if the same is not existing, then the use of contingency provision for utility shifting/protection, apart from ensuring that the updated cable route plan are available and the marking of cable zone at sight is given before undertaking the work.

Further during Oral Evidence before PAC for one of the audit paras regarding recovery of penalty over SER and WCR for cable cut cases, PAC has taken a serious view of non implementation of JPO Provisions by Zonal Railways.

In view of above, it is advised that the provisions contained in circulars, JPOs regarding penalties should be included in all the Tender Documents for Works requiring digging close to Railway signaling, telecom, electrical etc. cables so as to bind them legally for ensuring recoveries from them.

18.04.2023
(गौरव)

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