



उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे  
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY



कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य संकेत एवं दूरसंचार इंजीनियर,  
प्रथम तल, प्रधान कार्यालय, जवाहर सर्किल, जयपुर-302017

No. SG/236/1 Vol.XV

Dt 21.11.2024

The Divisional Railway Managers  
North Western Railway  
AIL, BKN, JP & JU Divisions

- Sub: Action Plan to control cable cuts during execution of works.**  
**Ref.:** (i) NWR letter no. NWR-HQ0SNT(TELE)/11/2020 dt 24.06.2021 and 20.10.2022.  
(ii) MI/RB letter No. 2023/CE-I/EDCE(G)/Misc. Dt 29.09.2022  
(iii) RB letter no. 2021/Tele/5(2)/3-Part(1) (3425647) dated 12.06.2023  
(iv) NWR letter no. NWR-HQ0SNT(TELE)/11/2020 dt 15.06.2023(copy enclosed)  
(v) GM/NWR note. GM/NWR/Noted/2024 dated 18.11.2024

Instructions already exists to have proper coordination among various departments undertaking any work near/along the track and to ensure strict compliance of JPO for undertaking any digging work in the vicinity of cables advised vide letters under ref.(i).

Vide ref.(ii), Railway Board (MI/RB) has earlier directed to cater for "Provision of shifting of cable / utility relocation in the estimates and if the same is not existing, then the use of contingency provision for utility shifting/protection".

Sometime it is inevitable to do earth work at some other locations where cables are not there. In such case the S&T cables need be diverted first. If such situation arises during execution of digging work, then also cables should be diverted first and then earth work shall be restarted. Utility relocation in case of cables requires digging out of cables, diversion and/or laying of new cables which is time consuming and cost prohibitive exercise. So, in the field, many times the digging work has been resorted duly protecting the cable to the extent possible.

Considering the practical difficulties in implementation of existing JPO, vide ref.(iii), Railway Board has issued revised broad guidelines for undertaking digging work in their vicinity and also directed Zonal Railways to issue local instruction / JPO in this regard. The same was advised to all concerned vide ref.(iv).

In 2024-25, a total of 112 incidences of cable cuts have been reported in NWR. Sudden spurt in cable cuts in recent past is a serious cause of concern. General Manager vide ref.(v) has instructed to review the present systems to ensure that safety and train operations is not compromised while executing infrastructure works.

In view of aforesaid, following instructions are issued to be followed with immediate effect:

- 1. Revised JPO issued by Railway Board vide (iii) shall be strictly followed for protection of cables while doing work in vicinity of railway underground cables.**
- 2. Provisions contained in the 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.**
- 3. For all new works, cable shifting should be a mandatory part of DPR and estimate of all works involving digging work in vicinity of Railway signaling, telecom, electrical**

Signature Not  
Verified

Digitally signed by  
SHER SINGH  
Date: 2025.06.25  
11:04:24 +05'30'  
Reason: IREPS-CRIS  
Location: New Delhi



etc. cables. For ongoing works, Zonal Railways may sanction works for cable shifting, if necessary, through contingency/supplementary/revised estimate where provision does not exist.

4. Digging work by the contractor shall be done only after obtaining necessary approval of concerned Divisional Authority as per JPO and ***Digging work using machine shall be avoided in station limit.***
5. Under unavoidable situations, if cables get cut where prior permission is taken for digging work, the executing agency as well as contractor shall immediately inform the concerned department to rectify and divert the cables. Such cable diversion works shall be charged against the estimate as detailed in Para 3 above.
6. Whenever the contractor executes the work without permission or resort to careless working without making arrangements for protecting cables leading to cable cut / damage, ***severe pecuniary penalty should invariably be imposed on such contractor who are violating the provisions of JPO.***
7. The concerned JAG officer of the executing department and Branch Officers (Sr.DSTE & Sr. DEN) will invariably ***rush to the site of cable cutting / damage to fix responsibility and submit a joint report to DRM and concerned PHOD.***
8. ***Sr.DSTE will submit the weekly position of cable damages and penalty to be imposed as per JPO to all concerned. Sr. DFM will ensure recovery of penalty.***

This issues with the approval of PCSTE.

Encl: As above

**RAJMAL** Digitally signed by  
**KHOIWAL** RAJMAL KHOIWAL  
(Rajmal Khoiwal) Date: 2024.11.21  
Chief Signal Engineer

Copy to:

1. Secy to GM for kind information of GM
2. Secy to AGM for kind information of AGM
3. PFA for kind information with request to issue direction to include penalty clause in Tender Documents and to check the same while vetting Tender Schedule/ Tender Document.
4. PCE, PCEE, PCSC, PCSTE, PCSO, CAO/C, CSTE/C, CSTE/Project- to kindly advise their field units for strict compliance of the JPO including updating of tender document as directed by Railway Board.
5. Sr.DSTE, Sr.DFM, Sr.DEN/C, Sr.DEE, Sr.DEE/TRD, Sr.DSO for necessary action



## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Headquarter Office,  
Jaipur-302017  
Date: 15.06.2023

No. NWR-HQ0SNT(TELE)/11/2020  
**DRM-AII, BKN,JP & JU**

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

**Ref:** (i) RB letter no.2021/Tele/5(2)/3-Part(1)(3425647) dated 12.06.2023  
(ii) RB letter no.2023/CE-I/EDCE(G)/Misc dated 18.04.2023  
(iii) RB letter no.2010/Tele/3(5)/1Pt(3346793) dated 29.09.2022  
(iv) RB letter no.2010/Tele/3(5)/1Pt (3346793) dated 17.08.2022  
(v) RB letter no.2003/Tele/RCIL/1 Pt.IX dated 14.01.2022  
(vi) RB letter no.2021/Tele/TW/1 Website dated 25.05.2021  
(vii) RB letter no.2003/Tele/RCIL/1 Pt.IX dated 24.06.2013, Telecom Circular No.17/2013  
(viii) This office letter No.NWR-HQ0SNT(Tele)/11/2020 dated 20.10.2022 & 01.05.2023  
(ix) This office letter No.NWR-HQ0SNT(Tele)/11/2020-O/o Dy.CSTE/ Telecom/NWR dated 24.06.2021

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Please find enclosed herewith a copy of Railway Board's letter referred (i) above, addressed to the GM/CMD/MD/PCAO/CAO, all Indian Railways, KRCL, PUs, CORE, COFMOW & DGs/Directors-RDSO, NAIR, All CTIs with copy to PCSTE, PCE & PCEE, all Indian Railways regarding 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 suppression of JPO issued vide reference (vii) above.

It is requested to kindly bestow your personal attention and direct to all concern to follow these broad guidelines issued by Railway board vide this Rly Board letter and also to 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. Necessary clauses should be incorporated in the tender documents in this regard accordingly. JPO for NWR will be prepared soon.

This is for kind information, further necessary action and compliance of the same please.

DA: as above.

Digitally Signed by Brijesh  
Kumar Singh  
Date: 15-06-2023 17:56:58  
Reason: Approved  
(B.K.Singh)  
Dy.CSTE/Tele/Jaipur

Copy to:

All PHODs/NWR, CAO/C, CSTE/C, CSTE/Project, CPD/RE/Jaipur, CPM/GSU, GM/RailTel/JP, CGM/DFCCIL/Jaipur, CPM/RVNL/Jodhpur, CPM/IRCON/Jaipur:  
Kindly advise to all concern for strict compliance of the Railway Board directives accordingly.  
Sr.DSTEs, Dy.CSTE/Project Units, Dy.CSTEs/GSU & Dy.CSTEs/Construction Units:  
for strictly compliance of the Railway Board directives accordingly.  
CSTE/HQ, CSE, CSTE/D&D, Secy to PCSTE/NWR, Dy.CSTE/D&D, Dy.CSTE/Signal:  
for kind information.





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)

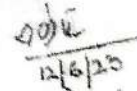
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A Joint Procedure Order (JPO) for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of underground Signalling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables was issued last vide Board's letter No.2003/Tele/RCIL/1Pt.IX dated 24.06.2013 (Telecom Circular No.17/2013). 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  
(राकिश रंजन)

कार्यकारी निदेशक (दूरसंचार विकास)

दूरभाष: 011-47843012, 030-43012

ई.मेल: edtd@rb.railnet.gov.in

Copy to:

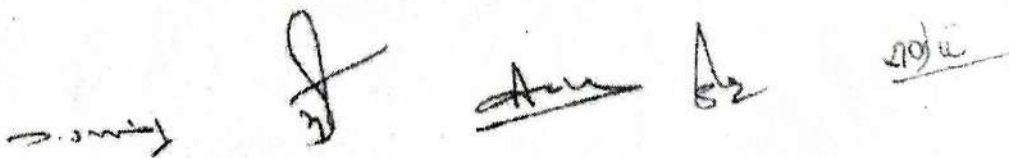
1. PSO to M(I) for kind information of Member/Infra
2. ED/SD, EDEE/M, EDCE/G, ED/GS/C-II for information & ensuring implementation of guidelines in letter & spirit
3. PCSTE, PCE & PCEE, All Indian Railways



**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





3. 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 should 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.





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



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:

- Zonal Railways to take necessary steps to ensure strict compliance of JPO for undertaking any digging work in the vicinity of cables.
- Proper coordination among various departments undertaking any work near/along the track.
- 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)

निदेशक सिविल इंजी.(जी)/रेलवे बोर्ड  
[Rly No. 030-47598, MTNL No. 011-23047598]  
e-mail address: dceg@rb.railnet.gov.in

भारतसरकार (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)  
रेलमंत्रालय (MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)  
रेलवेबोर्ड (RAILWAY BOARD)

No.2010/Tele/3(5)/1Pt(3346793)

New Delhi, dated: 29.09.2022

General Manager,  
All Indian Railways.

**Sub: Frequent cuts in OFC and Quad cable on account of various works in Railway premises.**

**Ref: (i) Railway Board letter No. 2003/Tele/RCIL/1 Pt.IX New Delhi dated 14.01.2022.**

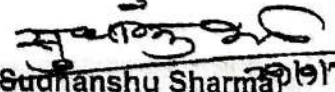
**(ii) Telecom Circular No. 17/2013 issued vide Letter No. 2003/Tele/RCIL/1 Pt IX dated 24.06.2013.**

**(iii) Railway Board letter of even no. dated 17.08.2022.**

~~Various works such as doubling, LHS, boundary walls, yard remodelling, electrification etc. are being taken up on large scale by the zonal railways. During the execution of these works, OFC and Quad cables get cut frequently. Important communication and safety circuits like video conferencing, train control communication, BPAC, FOIS etc. get affected because of these frequent cuts. It has been observed that the number of cable cuts has increased over the last few months. Apart from disruption of services, these cuts introduce losses in the cable degrading the life of the cable.~~

Zonal Railways are therefore advised to take the following steps to reduce the OFC/Quad cable cuts on account of these works:

- Ensure proper coordination between various departments undertaking any work near/ along the track.
- Ensure strict compliance of the JPO issued vide Telecom Circular No 17/2013 for undertaking any digging work in the vicinity of the cables.
- Ensure provision for shifting of the cable/utility is kept in estimate while sanctioning any work involving digging in the vicinity of the cable.
- In case of sanctioned estimates where such provision is not there, Railways shall make use contingency or revise the estimate to shift the cables. All cables shall be shifted/ protected before starting the digging work.
- Ensure provision of Updated Cable Route Plans as communicated vide Railway Board's letter No 2010/Tele/3(5)/1.Pt.(3346793) dated 17.08.2022 (copy enclosed).
- Ensure marking of cable zone at site by executing agency before undertaking the work.

  
(Sudhanshu Sharma) 29/9/2022  
Member (Infrastructure)

Railway Board

Telephone: 011-47843124/43124

Email: mi@rb.railnet.gov.in