

Underground Electricity Distribution Obstruction Plan Terms of Use

This information is supplied to you on the following terms and conditions:

This plan is provided for reference purposes and while care has been taken in its preparation, PowerNet Limited does not accept any liability whatsoever for its accuracy and completeness and does not make any representation or warranty, express or implied in relation to the same.

This plan indicates the approximate location of PowerNet underground electricity assets only. PowerNet is continually altering its networks meaning that the attached information may become out of date. It is essential that any plan used is current at the time of excavation. Measurements and depths shown on the plan are an indication only. In some cases equipment is shown diagrammatically only. In order to avoid interpretation difficulties, use only the original plans which must be printed in colour and in a legible format. Plans are valid for 28 days, after that period, new plans must be sought.

When working around electrical cables you must...

1. Treat all cables as live at all times.
2. Hold current plans and permits on your worksite for review.
3. Determine the position of cables by supplied measurements or by using a cable locator, then determine the true position of the cables by hand digging or hydro excavating.
4. Obtain permission to Excavate closer than the described Minimum Approach Distances from the known location of any electricity cable by submitting a Close Approach Permit (see link below).
5. Private electric cables are shown in the general location on the plan.
6. Under no circumstances are you allowed to interfere with PowerNet plant and equipment.
7. **Warning** – In the case of sub-transmission feeder cables, there may be a number of cables and oil lines not shown on the plan. Seek advice when working near these cables.

20 working days' notice will be required for PowerNet field services to arrange a shutdown with PowerNet System Control. This is from the time you have contacted and made arrangement with PowerNet.

Two full working days' notice is required to organise stand-over prior to any excavation in the vicinity of the cables.

A Close Approach Permit can be found by clicking the link below and downloading the Application form

<https://powernet.co.nz/contractors-information/working-near-cables-and-lines/application-forms-for-working-near-cables-and-lines/>

The procedure for obtaining permission and the use of a Site Observer is on the form.

If you wish to discuss your obligations and the dangers of working around PowerNet managed assets, you can contact PowerNet on (03) 211 1899 and ask for System Control

PowerNet reminds you of your responsibilities under the health and safety at Work Act 2015, whereby you must establish the location of underground services before commencing excavation. If you fail to do so, you will be held liable for any loss or damage that you may cause.

If you notice damage to Cables, Lines, Line Supports or Bare Earth wires, keep well clear and notify PowerNet immediately on 0800 808 587

Your Legal Requirements

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has set down minimum safe work practices for carrying out any work near Electricity, gas and communications networks. See their 'Guide for Safety with Underground Services' which is available online.

There are also government laws and regulations that specify safe working practices which must be followed. These include:

Electricity Act 1992 and amendments.

Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and Amendments

NZEC 34:2001 Electrical Safe Distances

Working near Cables

If you need to excavate near Power cables you must use at least one of 2 methods of establishing the approximate position of those cables. The initial step is to determine whether any cables are within the vicinity of your work zone by reviewing the attached plans. If the plans have dimensions, this is a good indication that the cables are where they are described and potholing should commence. If there are no references or dimensions to describe the position of cables, then a cable location service provider should be sought. Once the approximate position has been determined, potholing should commence to determine the cables exact position.

Potholing

A cables true position can only be confirmed by visually sighting and identifying the cables. This is done by potholing. This can be done with a shovel or hydro excavation.

CAUTION! Cable depths may vary. Over time the ground levels may have changed or where cables exit the ground to enter a building or go up supporting structures. Cables may also be buried directly under concrete drives and footpaths.

Important Information: When excavating around poles, pillars, transformers and other ground mounted plant, you may require permission and a Safety Observer. Permission should be sought where your excavation may require assets to be supported during the course of the job. Submit a Close Approach application form and wait for approval, instruction and contact details.

The **Guide for Safety with Underground Services** provides important information about working around underground utilities, available from: www.business.govt.nz/worksafe

Working near Lines

Everyone working on building sites or anywhere near overhead lines has a legal requirement to maintain the minimum safe distance from power lines as set down by New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice – NZECP 34:2001 Electrical Safe Distances.

Depending on the distances from Lines and Line Supports you may also need to fill out a Close Approach Permit

A Close Approach Permit can be found by clicking this link and downloading the Application form

<https://powernet.co.nz/contractors-information/working-near-cables-and-lines/application-forms-for-working-near-cables-and-lines/>

Permissions and Consents

The recipient is to comply with the following documents for any investigations or intended works near PowerNet underground or overhead assets.

National code of practice for Utility Operators' Access to Transport Corridors provides mandatory requirements and supporting guidance to assist Utility Operators and Corridor Managers in exercising these rights and complying with the Utilities Access Act, available from: www.nzuag.org.nz

Guide for Safety with Underground Services provides important information about working around underground utilities, available from: www.business.govt.nz/worksafe

NZ Electrical Code of Practice 34:2001 outlines the requirements for minimum safe approach distance limits for persons working near exposed live parts or excavation near poles and stay wires, available from www.med.govt.nz Prior written consent shall be obtained from PowerNet for any excavation or other interference with the land near any pole or stay wire of an overhead electric line.

No trenching, directional drilling or thrusting shall take place within Minimum Approach Distance of any cable.

When crossing within Minimum Approach Distance of the cable(s) location, a mark-out must be completed. The cables must be physically located by careful potholing before any trenching, drilling or thrusting can take place.

When drilling or thrusting, cables must be exposed on the side that the drill or thruster will appear, in order that the machine head location can be observed.