

# **GUIDELINES ON SUBMARINE CABLE REPAIR INTO SINGAPORE**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) is the lead agency for facilitating the deployment of submarine cable systems into Singapore. IDA provides guidance to interested parties and facilitates the process for applying for the necessary permits from the various authorities in Singapore.
- 1.2 This set of Guidelines is intended to provide an overview of the permitting process for submarine cable repair works in Singapore and to guide the operators on the permitting process.

## **2 APPLICATION TO MPA ( COMMITTEE FOR MARINE PROJECTS) FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT REPAIR WORKS WITHIN SINGAPORE PORT LIMITS**

- 2.1 Prior to conducting repair works within Singapore port limits, the applicant has to submit a formal application to the Committee of Marine Projects (“COMET”) of the Maritime Port Authority (“MPA”). The following information shall be included in the submission:
  - a) Site Location
    - i. Location plan indicating the area with coordinates for the entire route;
    - ii. An indication on the proximity of sensitive areas, e.g. coral conservation area, existing submarine services, water intake for power plant, etc. if any; and
    - iii. General description of the project.
  - b) Subsoil Investigation
    - i. Investigation on the subsoil conditions along and on both sides of the submarine pipelines/cables, at least 200 metre from the centre line of these pipelines or cables, for the entire length of the pipelines/cables for areas with seabed depth higher than the stipulated reserved depth(s) within Singapore waters.
  - c) Extent of dredging along the submarine pipelines and/or cable routes
    - i. The applicant shall advise MPA on the extent of dredging on either side of the trench, based on the subsoil investigation.

- d) Report
  - i. The applicant is to submit three (3) copies of the report on the investigations and findings on the above requirements and method of statement of the proposed works for the submarine cables/pipelines for MPA's evaluation; and
  - ii. If the report does not provide sufficient information, MPA will require the applicant to conduct further investigations (i.e. seismic survey, boreholes, etc.) at the applicant's own cost.

2.2 Further details on the submission to COMET can be found at the following URL:

[http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/port\\_and\\_shipping/port/foreshore\\_and\\_marine\\_development\\_projects.page/comet\\_applications.page](http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/port_and_shipping/port/foreshore_and_marine_development_projects.page/comet_applications.page)

2.3 For any enquiries regarding the MPA's requirements on submarine cable repair, please contact:

*Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)  
7B Keppel Road #19, Tanjong Pagar Complex,  
Singapore 089055  
Officer-In-Charge  
DID: (65) 6325 2418*

### **3 APPLICATION TO MPA FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT REPAIR WORKS IN THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME**

3.1 To conduct repair works in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) or in the vicinity of the TSS of Singapore, operators would have to submit the following details to the MPA:

- a) Introduction of applicant and cable system to be repaired;
- b) Operations overview, which shall include intended operation and position of the operation area marked on a navigational chart;
- c) Particulars of repair/cable vessels engaged for the works and other craft (if any);
- d) Communication plan and reporting procedures, which shall include:
  - i. VHF working frequencies as per Port Marine Circular No 4 of 2009 (Amendment to reporting procedures for vessels manoeuvring in port); or

- ii. VHF working frequencies as per Port Marine Circular No 65 of 1998 (Mandatory Ship Reporting System in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore Straits).
- e) Work schedule date and operation time in chronological order;
- f) Operations and work methodology, e.g. operations involving remote operating vehicle (ROV) survey, grappling, splicing, laying, burial, and etc.
- g) Execution of work methodology and safety of navigation with respect to traffic flow in the TSS. Applicant shall plan the operation and sequencing of operation, as far as practicable in compliance to the general direction of the traffic flow in the TSS;
- h) Contingency plans for the craft involved in the operation, which shall include emergency procedures and demobilisation plan from the work site;
- i) Activity after completion of repair work (if any); and
- j) Contact detail of personnel responsible for the operation and craft on site.

3.2 For any enquiries regarding how to conduct repair works in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) or in the vicinity of the TSS of Singapore, please contact:

*Maritime Port Authority of Singapore  
7B Keppel Road #19, Tanjong Pagar Complex,  
Singapore 089055*

1) Operations Planning Department  
Captain Daknash Ganasen  
[Officer-In-Charge DID: \(65\) 6325 2461](tel:(65)63252461)

2) Port Operation Control Centre  
Officer-In-Charge  
Email: [pocc@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:pocc@mpa.gov.sg)  
DID: (65) 6325 2493 / 6325 2494

## **4 ACTUAL REPAIRWORKS**

4.1 Upon receiving the approval from the MPA, the applicant may proceed to commence the repair works on the submarine cable system.

- 4.2 The applicant shall also submit a daily progress report which shall include the status and position of the operations and repair vessel(s) to the MPA's Operations Planning Department and Port Operation Control Centre.

## **5 FACILITATION OF PRE-CLEARANCE**

- 5.1 To expedite the permitting process in the event of submarine cable repair work, it is advisable that submarine cable operators obtain pre-clearance of repair vessels. To do so, the contractor's repair vessels and crewlist are required. For more details on the information to be submitted to facilitate pre-clearance, please contact the following:

*Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore,  
10 Pasir Panjang Road, #10-01 Mapletree Business City  
Singapore 117438.  
Infrastructure Regulation Dept  
Officer-In-Charge  
DID: (65) 6211 1827*

### **Notes:**

**1 This document has no legal standing and is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. While every effort has been made to provide an accurate and authoritative account of the licensing regime and requirements from the relevant agencies, the licence(s)/approvals to be granted to successful applicants will be the complete authoritative text.**

**2 The information contained in this document is intended to assist interested parties in applying for the relevant licences/approvals. It does not bind IDA or any other agencies to any particular course of action in relation to the handling of any application, or to the terms of any licence/approvals to be granted, or to grant any licence/approvals to any party. IDA/agencies reserve the right to change its policies and/or to amend this document without prior notice.**

**3 The grant of the licence/approval is at the sole discretion of IDA/agencies. IDA/agencies reserves the right not to accept any application submitted. IDA will undertake to explain to the applicant concerned, on the applicant's request, why the applicant is unsuccessful in its application for a licence.**

**4 IDA/agencies reserves the right to disclose the identities of parties who have submitted applications. All other information received will be treated in confidence.**