

**UTLC Paper No. 1/2022**  
**Revised Mechanism for Assigning Demerit Point Level 2E on**  
**Delayed Rectification of Defective Manhole and Drawpit Covers**

**I. Purpose**

This paper sets out the revised mechanism for assigning Demerit Point Level (DPL) 2E regarding delayed rectification of defective manhole and drawpit covers. This paper should be referred to and read in conjunction with the Excavation Permit Processing Manual, UTLC Paper No. 1/2017 and UTLC Paper No. 1/2021.

**II. Background**

2. In August 2012, the demerit point system with sanctioning measures was formally implemented to enhance control on road opening works. The Demerit Point Level (DPL) assigned to respective Utility Undertakings' (UUs') party-combinations (Permittee-Division-Contractor) served as an effective indicator of performance in road opening works. In September 2017, DPL 2E for delayed rectifications of defective utility manhole and drawpit covers was introduced (see UTLC Paper No. 1/2017) to strengthen the control on road rectification works. In August 2021, the time period allowed for delayed rectification of defective manhole and drawpit covers on footpath or cycle track was revised (see UTLC Paper No. 1/2021).

3. Under the established mechanism for assigning DPL 2E for delayed rectifications of defective utility manhole and drawpit covers in accordance with the UTLC Paper No. 1/2017 and UTLC Paper No. 1/2021, when the responsible permittee fails to satisfactorily complete the rectifications within the specific period without any reason which is acceptable to the corresponding HyD Regional Office, a demerit point of "0.1" will be assigned to all party combinations under such permittee, regardless of the involvement of the permittee's different divisions / different contractors, for each case upon notification by the HyD Regional Office until the defect has been rectified to the satisfaction of the HyD Regional Office.

**III. Revision to the Mechanism for Assigning DPL 2E regarding Delayed Rectification of Defective Manhole and Drawpit Covers**

4. As the mechanism for assigning DPL 2E under UTLC Paper no. 1/2017 had already been implemented for around five years, HyD conducted a review on the subject taking into account the feedbacks from UUs, government departments and HyD Regional Offices on the mechanism of assigning DPL 2E and the corresponding sanctioning measures. Taking into

consideration the practicality issues and reasonableness of DPL 2E assignment, a revised mechanism of assignment is proposed.

5. The revision aims to allow more balanced assignment of DPL 2E and provides flexibility for concerned parties to plan their rectifications works as necessary when such notifications are received by permittees from HyD Regional Offices or their maintenance term contractor appointed under the current arrangement / practice, while maintaining the incentive for permittees to complete rectifications as soon as possible and retaining an appropriate level of control by HyD on the actual conditions of manhole and drawpit covers.

6. It is proposed that when the responsible permittee fails to satisfactorily complete the rectifications within the specific period without any reason which is acceptable to the corresponding HyD Regional Office, a demerit point of “0.1” will be assigned to all party combinations (Permittee-Division-Contractor) under such permittee that hold any type of registered Excavation Permit(s), excluding those with approved Completion Notice submission, within the same region (namely Hong Kong Island, Kowloon or New Territories<sup>Note 1</sup>) as where the defective manhole or drawpit cover is located, which is to be determined by HyD Regional Office, for each case upon notification by HyD Regional Office until the defect has been rectified to the satisfaction of HyD Regional Office.

*Note 1: New Territories includes all outlying islands.*

7. Apart from the proposed revision as stated in this Paper, all other details regarding assignment of DPL 2E shall follow existing establishment as set out in the Excavation Permit Processing Manual, UTLC Paper No. 1/2017 and UTLC Paper No. 1/2021.

#### **IV. Way Forward**

8. Subject to endorsement of this Paper, the above revised mechanism for assigning DPL 2E regarding delayed rectification of defective manhole and drawpit covers shall take effect 2 weeks after the notification from HyD. HyD will keep close monitoring of the situation and will consider to make suitable adjustments if and when necessary.

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