

UTLC Paper No. 2/2009

Definition of Unattended Site and Review of Standard Reasons

Background

1. Referring to the proposed recommendations of UTLC Paper No. 1/2009¹, a meeting was held with major utility undertakings on 28 April 2009 to review the current list of standard reasons for unattended site.

Definition of Unattended Site

2. Under the current practice, there is no clear definition of unattended site. The following were discussed and agreed in principle:
 - (a) Site is considered as active if excavation or associated construction activity is actively worked on during any working day between 8:00am and 6:00pm;
 - (b) General obligations are not considered as active site. For example, site cleanliness and tidiness, routine inspection on LSG² and site security; and
 - (c) A site is not considered as unattended provided that all excavations have been covered up with temporary decking, and associated LSG have been dismantled. The display board for explaining reasons for apparently unattended road works is not necessary as the site is no longer classified as unattended. The Audit Inspection Team will check the temporary decking on site in accordance with the current standards. The LSG equipment may be temporarily stored on site provided that they are properly placed at a location where a 1.5m clear width or other widths specified by the authority is maintained. The LSG equipment should be removed off site as soon as possible if the site will not be actively worked upon for a long time. A pedestrian barrier can be left on site to facilitate the display of excavation permit to identify the parties responsible for maintaining the excavation.

Considerations for Acceptance of Reasons for Unattended Site

3. Currently, there is no guideline on acceptance of reasons for unattended site. The following factors were discussed and agreed in principle:
 - (a) Activity/incident should be critical to subsequent construction activity or

¹ UTLC Paper No. 1/2009 – Proposed Measures on Tightening Control of Unattended Site.

² LSG stands for lighting, signing and guarding.

- for completion of works;
- (b) Activity/incident should be unforeseeable or unavoidable;
- (c) Instruction from authorities; and
- (d) General holidays.

Review of Wording of Standard Reasons

4. The wording of following standard reasons is proposed to be changed taking into account the nature of the works. The provision of resumed date is considered not required but relevant documents should be displayed on site to substantiate the time restriction imposed on the works.

Original Wording	Proposed Wording
Night Works 夜間工程	Work at Night Time Only 工程只在夜間進行
Works Executed On Saturday, Sunday Or Holidays Only 只在星期六、日或假期施工	Work on Saturday, Sunday Or General Holiday Only 工程只在星期六、日或公眾假期 進行

The Way Forward

5. The meeting agreed that the proposal under paragraph 2(c) above should be adopted as soon as possible, and the corresponding change in unattended site statistics be monitored.
6. HyD will further discuss with the various UU trades on the validity of individual standard reasons for unattended sites, with a view to updating the reasons and setting the corresponding reasonable duration for unattendance. It is envisaged that some maximum unattended duration limits will be set, over which the sites will be mandatory required to be decked or reinstated.

May 2009

Research and Development Division

Highways Department

Unanimous endorsement by UTLC members on 6 May 2009.
Item 2(c) effective on 11 May 2009