

UTLC Paper No. 3/2003 (rev. 4)

(Supplement of UTLC Paper 3/2000)

Collection of Paving Blocks & Construction of Recessed Covers

1. Background

According to UTLC Paper 3/2000, when HyD reconstructs a footpath with precast paving blocks, UUs are required to replace their traditional manhole covers in the affected area by recessed manhole covers. HyD should provide the precast materials for the infill⁽¹⁾ while UUs are responsible for, inter alia, fabrication of the cover with the infill. As HyD assumes that UUs will change their manhole covers on time, the Paper does not indicate a time limit for the collection of paving blocks and the time limit for the completion of manhole cover replacement works. However, according to our records of the past few years, some UUs were very late in collecting their paving blocks. The progress of these UUs' manhole cover replacement works were also far behind our expectation and had led to complaints from the public on unsightly appearances and poor coordination by HyD.

2. Discussion

In order to avoid similar problems, the following procedures are proposed to supplement the existing arrangement:

- (a) At least three months before the commencement of footpath reconstruction works, the Regional Office of HyD will inform concerned UUs in advance in order to let UUs have more time to plan for the manhole cover replacement works. On or before the commencement date of the footpath reconstruction works, the Regional Office will notify UUs to collect paving blocks for their recessed covers. Upon receipt of notification from the Regional Office, UUs should apply for urgent permits⁽²⁾ to replace their manhole covers according to the programme of footpath reconstruction works and collect the paving blocks. To avoid unnecessary transportation arrangement, UUs are encouraged to arrange their manhole cover replacement works with HyD's contractor immediately and collect the required paving blocks on site.
- (b) UUs should collect the paving blocks (including the agreed additional percentage of paving blocks) from the Regional Office within one month from the date of

⁽¹⁾ Provision of infill materials is an one-off exercise. The maintenance responsibility of the recessed manhole/utility covers in public roads shall rest with the owners of the utilities. All types of paving materials of the recessed covers shall be obtained in the market by the maintenance party at their own costs. However, if there is a genuine difficulty to obtain the paving materials in the market, maintenance parties could contact HyD's maintenance contractors to procure the paving materials. If both HyD's maintenance contractors and the market are out of stock, HyD would consider to modify the design or specification of the concerned paving areas to suit the situation.

⁽²⁾ If the recessed manhole cover replacement works do not involve any excavation, XP is not required.

notification. If the paving blocks are not collected within one month or no arrangement has been made with HyD's contractor, the Regional Office will send a reminder to the concerned UUs with a list of outstanding manhole covers in the reconstructed area for their information and action. UUs should write to the Regional Office to express their intention as soon as possible.

- (i) If UUs express that they will carry out the manhole cover replacement works by themselves, they must complete the works within four months from the commencement date of the footpath reconstruction works.
- (ii) If UUs express their wish to entrust their manhole cover replacement works to HyD, the Regional Office will send Demand Notes⁽³⁾ to UUs. If UUs agree to the costs of the entrustment works⁽⁴⁾, they should settle the Demand Notes and provide the recessed manhole covers and frames to the Regional Office for installation. Before the commencement of the entrustment works, the Regional Office will notify the respective UU the commencement date three working days in advance. The respective UU should send their plant watching staff to site for work supervision in order to avoid plant damage. After completion, the Regional Office will inform the respective UU to inspect the works and take over the completed recessed manhole covers for maintenance and finalization of the account. In addition, a 1-year maintenance period will be offered to all completed recessed manhole covers from the date of taking over.
- (iii) If the concerned UUs do not respond to the Regional Office's reminder nor commence their manhole cover replacement works within four months from the commencement date of the footpath reconstruction works, the Regional Office will not send out further notice and will immediately change the outstanding manhole covers⁽⁵⁾ on their behalf and charge UUs the necessary cost.

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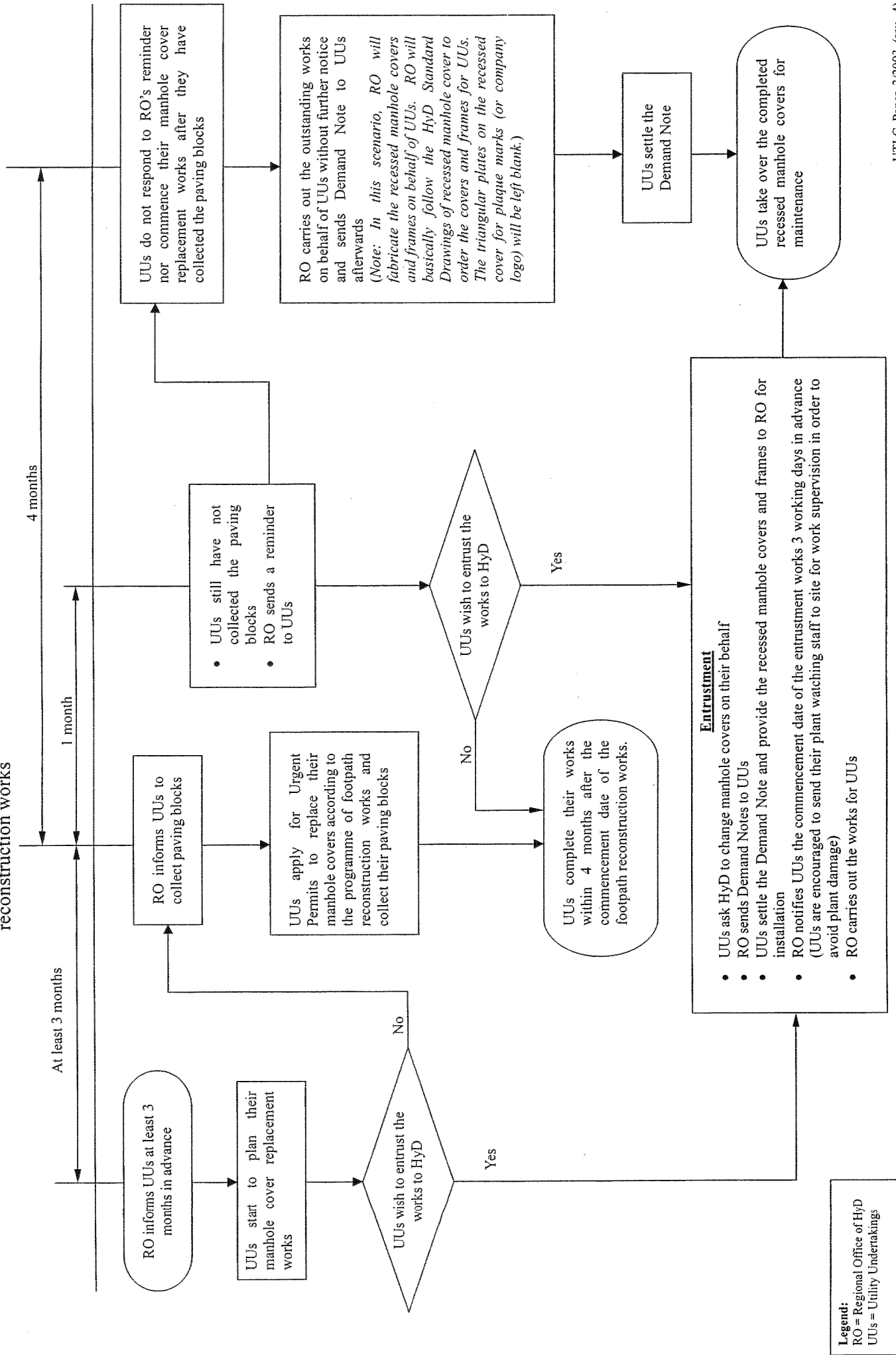
Except PCCW, this Paper was endorsed by the rest of the members of UTLC on 11.5.2004.

⁽³⁾ The estimated cost of entrustment works may vary with the maintenance districts (or maintenance contracts) of HyD. Thus, same type of manhole cover may have different construction cost in different location. In addition, the General Specification for Civil Engineering Works published by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will be the specification of works to be followed. If UUs request to follow a higher standard of specification of works, the estimated cost of entrustment works will need to be re-estimated and most likely be higher.

⁽⁴⁾ If UUs' entrusted manhole cover replacement works can be carried out and completed within the permit period of the respective HyD's footpath reconstruction works, UUs will not need to pay the XP fee.

⁽⁵⁾ In this scenario, Regional Office will fabricate the recessed manhole covers and frames on behalf of UUs. RO will basically follow the HyD Standard Drawings of recessed manhole cover to order the covers and frames for UUs. The triangular plates on the recessed cover for plaque marks (or company logo) will be left blank.

Commencement date of footpath reconstruction works



Legend:
 RO = Regional Office of Hyd
 UUs = Utility Undertakings