

## UTLC Paper No. 2/98

### Maximum Advance Time for Excavation Permit Application

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek agreement from members on the proposed maximum advance time for Excavation Permit (EP) application.

#### 2. Background

Whilst utility undertakings (UUs) are always encouraged to register their planned works in the UMS at an earliest stage for facilitating co-ordination, it is noticed that some UUs, having completed the registration and co-ordination process, proceeded immediately to EP application even though the scheduled work commencement date was long time behind. It follows that some EP applications were submitted as early as one and a half years before the planned starting date of the work. This is highly undesirable because it would be premature to predict the site situation of the work at such an early stage. Members may well appreciate that the EP approved start/end dates and any additional conditions of permit to be imposed should hinge on the traffic conditions and any other site situations which may affect or be affected by the proposed works. To issue the EP too far in advance may render the Authority being unable to properly assess the site circumstances and stipulate appropriate conditions. It would also eliminate the opportunity of adjusting the work programme to cope with other works as a result of co-ordination.

#### 3. Proposal

In view of the above, it is proposed that the advance time for EP application should not exceed 120 calendar days, which should be adequate for the applicant to apply for any necessary permission from other relevant authorities and mobilise his work force.

Unless under exceptional circumstances to be justified by the applicant on a case by case basis, HyD will reject any EP application which is submitted earlier than 120 calendar days before the planned starting day.

**Highways Department**

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