

GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SUBMARINE CABLE DAMAGE INCIDENTS IN SINGAPORE PORT LIMITS AND THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME ZONE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Info-communications Media Development Authority (the “Authority”) is the lead agency for facilitating the deployment of submarine cable systems into Singapore.
- 1.2 This set of Guidelines is intended to provide licensees with an overview of the management of the submarine cable damage incidents in Singapore Port Limits and the Traffic Separation Scheme (“TSS”) zone. It details the process in which submarine cable operators may approach the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (“MPA”) to obtain information of vessel activities in the vicinity of the submarine cable incidents. The Guidelines also inform licensees on the process for application of the necessary permits prior to undertaking submarine cable repair works in Singapore.

2 APPLICATION TO MPA TO OBTAIN INFORMATION OF VESSEL ACTIVITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE SUBMARINE CABLE INCIDENTS

- 2.1 To prevent submarine cable damage incidents arising from anchoring and fishing activities in Singapore territorial waters and the TSS zone, submarine cable operators are strongly encouraged to put in place measures to better protect this international connectivity infrastructure. Within Singapore port limits, licensees are required to bury their submarine cables to a depth that can withstand an anchor drop from a Very Large Crude Carrier (“VLCC”). The required depth may be between 4 m to 12 m, depending on the condition of the sea bed and is subject to MPA’s approval. Beyond the port limits such as in the TSS zone, IMDA strongly encourages burial of cables to similarly withstand an anchor drop from VLCC especially in areas where higher levels of incidents are known to occur, and active monitoring of maritime activity in the vicinity of their cable systems.
- 2.2 In the event of a submarine cable damage incident, apart from notifying IMDA, operators should also seek MPA’s Vessel Traffic Management Department’s assistance to obtain information of vessels in the vicinity of the cable incident in order to identify the potential vessel that might have damaged the cables.

- 2.3 Licensees may contact MPA via the following email address or telephone numbers:

Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

Email: POCC@mpa.gov.sg / Lim_Cheng_Hai@mpa.gov.sg

Tel: (65) 6325 2493 / 6325 2494

- 2.4 Licensees should provide the information stated in **Annex A** to MPA to assist MPA to locate the potential vessel that might have damaged the cables.

3 APPLICATION TO MPA FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT REPAIR WORKS

- 3.1 To conduct repair works, a licensee shall submit the following details to MPA:

- a) Introduction of the licensee and submarine 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);

Applications should be made to:

MPA's Operations Planning Department

- I. Captain Charles Alexandar DE SOUZA

Officer-In-Charge DID: (65) 6325 2420

Email: Charles_Alexandar_DE_SOUZA@mpa.gov.sg

- II. Captain Harad ABD GANI

Officer-In-Charge DID: (65) 6325 2456

Email: Harad_ABD_GANI@mpa.gov.sg

- 3.2 Upon receiving the approval from MPA, the licensee should submit its Standard Operating Procedures ("SOP") to MPA for approval. The licensee's SOP should consist of the following:

- (i) Communication plan and reporting procedures, which shall include the VHF working frequencies as per Port Marine Circular No 65 of 1998 (Mandatory Ship Reporting System in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore Straits)
- (ii) Work schedule dates and operation time in chronological order;

- (iii) Operations and work methodology, e.g. operations involving remote operating vehicle (ROV) survey, grappling, splicing, laying, burial;
- (iv) Execution of work methodology and safety of navigation with respect to traffic flow in the TSS. The licensee 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;
- (v) Contingency plans for the craft involved in the operation, which shall include emergency procedures and demobilisation plan from the work site;
- (vi) Activity after completion of repair work (if any); and
- (vii) Contact detail of personnel responsible for the operation and craft on site.

Submissions should be made to:

MPA's Operations Planning Department

- i. Captain CHEW Kian Kwee
Officer-In-Charge DID: (65) 6325 2472
Email: CHEW_Kian_Kwee@mpa.gov.sg
- ii. R Thiruchelvan
Officer-In-Charge DID: (65) 6325 2491
Email: Thiruchelvan_Ramanathan@mpa.gov.sg

3.3 For any further enquiries regarding the conduct of repair works please contact:

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

- 1) Operations Planning Department
Captain Charles Alexandar DE SOUZA
Officer-In-Charge DID: (65) 6325 2420
Email: Charles_Alexandar_DE_SOUZA@mpa.gov.sg

2) Port Operation Control Centre

Officer-In-Charge

Email: POCC@mpa.gov.sg / Lim_Cheng_Hai@mpa.gov.sg

DID: POCC - (65) 6325 2493 / 6325 2494

Capt Lim Cheng Hai (65) 6773 7432

4 ACTUAL REPAIRWORKS

- 4.1 Upon receiving the approval from MPA for the works and the SOP for the works, the licensee may proceed to commence the repair works on the submarine cable system.
- 4.2 The licensee shall also submit a daily progress report on the status and position of the operations and repair vessel(s) to the MPA's Operations Planning Department and Port Operation Control Centre.

INFORMATION ON SUBMARINE CABLE INCIDENT

To: Vessel Traffic Management Department
 Attention: Capt Lim Cheng Hai, MPA
 By Email: POCC@mpa.gov.sg; lim_cheng_hai@mpa.gov.sg

Name Of Licensee: _____

Date/Time of this _____ /
 Report: _____

Submarine Cable System		
Estimate Date/Time of Damage		
Map Coordinates	Latitude:	
	Longitude:	
Description of Incident		
Remarks	<u>(e.g. please provide the information of the vessels in the area)</u>	