

Advice to Contractors

Safe working practices must be followed when working near overhead lines, power poles, stay wires, underground electricity cables and ducts.

Treat all overhead lines, electrical cables and ducts as “Live” until positively proven otherwise

Refer to the following table for minimum safe working distances which must be observed when working with mechanical plant and hand held power tools.

Minimum Safe Working Distances Reference: NZECP34

Overhead Lines	4.0 m	Reduced distances near lines owned by EA Networks may be considered by application to our Control Room completing a “Close Approach Request” form* Note: Excavated or other material shall not be deposited under or near an overhead line so as to reduce the conductor clearance to ground.
Power Poles and Stay Wires	No greater depth than 300 mm within 2.2 m of pole	Excavation closer to EA Networks poles and stay wires may be considered by application to our Control Room using a “Close Excavation Request” form*
Electrical Cables & Ducts	0.5 m	Refer notes below for DOL safe working practices when working near electrical cables and ducts.

*Forms are available on our website www.eanetworks.co.nz

Electrical Cables and Ducts

Safe working practices are defined in the DOL ‘Guide for safety with Underground Services’ 2002 which require contractors to:

- Obtain Cable plans**
 Forward a location plan showing extent of excavation works to EA Networks.
 Allow a minimum of ten working days notification. EA Networks will supply all available plans.
***NOTE:** There may be other power cables in the vicinity of the proposed works which are not the responsibility of EA Networks (e.g. lighting and private power cables).*
- Locate Cable Position from Plan and Verify with a Cable Locator**
 DOL requirements are that contractors should take all practicable steps to verify the cable position from the plan with a Cable Locator.
- Hand Expose Cables**
 It is the contractor’s responsibility to expose by hand all cables and ducts before mechanical excavation, and ensure that the **total number** of cables either indicated on plans located on site, or as instructed are accounted for as there may be multiple cables in close proximity in one trench either in separate trenches, or in the same trench at different depths.

Issued Plans

All plans issued for work need to be destroyed after completion of work as plans are continually updated by EA Networks and can quickly become inaccurate.

The advice in this document is intended to prevent harm to people, to minimise damage to property and inconvenience to customers.

For more assistance phone **0800 430460** or email enquiries@eanetworks.co.nz