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CE/TMS.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Headquarters Office,
Baroda House,
New Delhi.

No. 43-W/1487/Works

Dated 13 Sept, 2011

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord,
Northern Railway,
DLI, FZR, LKO, MB & UMB.

Sub: Damage to the Telecom RE cable by Contractor of Engineering Department.

Recently in one of the case in Delhi division, RE cable got damaged/cut by contractor's JCB while doing earth work at Km No. 46/8-10 between Sonipat-Sandal Kalan. S&T department has raised a penalty of Rs. 1,00,000/- against the contractor as per the guidelines issued by Railway Board in such situations. On enquiry, it revealed that concerned officials of Engineering Department (ADEN/IOW/PWI) had neither demanded any route diagram of such cable from S&T department nor handed over the same to contractor nor given any clearance for execution. Contractor started work without taking any written permission.

As a result of this failure there were detentions to many mail/express trains due to damage/cut of RE cable by engineering contractor. This is a very embarrassing situation.

In this connection a JPO has already been issued by Railway Board vide order no. 2004/SIG/G/7/ date 16.12.2004. Extracts of JPO is reproduced below for your information and necessary action.

1. S&T Department and (RailTel, where they have laid the cables) & Electrical Departments shall provide a detailed cable route plan showing exact location of cable at an interval of 200m or wherever there is change in alignment so that the same is located easily by the Engineering official/contractor. This cable route plans shall be made available to the DSE/DEN or Dy. CE/C as the case may be by Sr. DSTE/DSTE or Sr. DEE/DEE of the divisions or Dy. CSTE/C or Dy. CEE/C within a reasonable time in duplicate. DSE/DEN or Dy. CE/C will send copies to their field unit i.e. AEN/SE/P.Way & Works.

2. Before taking up any digging activity on a particular work by any agency, Sr. DSTE/DSTE or Sr. DEE/DEE of the section shall be approached in writing by the concerned Engineering or S&T or Electrical Officer for permitting to undertake the work. After ensuring that the concerned executing agencies, including the contractor have fully understood the S&T and Electrical cable route plan shall permit the work in writing.
3. After getting the permission from S&T or Electrical Department as the case may be the relevant portion of the cable route plan shall be attached to the letter through which permission is issued to the contractor by concerned Engineering official for commencement of work and ensuring that the contractors have fully understood the cable route plan and precautions to be taken to prevent damage to the underground cables. The contractor shall be asked to study the cable plan and follow it meticulously to ensure that the safety of the cable is not endangered. Such a provision including any penalty for default should form part of agreement also. It is advisable that a suitable post of SE(Sig) or doubling/Gauge conversion, who can help engineering agencies in the execution of the work. However basic responsibility will be of the Department executing the work and the contractor.
4. The SE (P.Way) or SE (Works) shall pass on the information to the concerned SE (Sig) or SE (Tele) or SE (Elect.) about the works being taken up by the contractors in their sections at least 3 days in advance of the day of the work. In addition Engineering control shall also be informed by SE(P.Way) or SE(Works), which in turn shall pass on the information to the Test Room/Net work Operation Centre of Rail Tel/TPC/Electrical Control.
5. On receiving the above information, SE(Sig) or SE(Tele) or SE(Elect) shall visit the site on or before the date of taking up the work and issue permission to the contractor to commence the work after checking that adequate precautions have been taken to avoid the damage to the cables. The permission shall be granted within 3 days of submission of such requests.
6. The name of the contractor, his contract telephone number, the nature of the work shall be notified in the Engineering Control as soon as the concerned Engineering official issued the letter authorizing commencement of work to the contractor. Test room be given a copy and Test Room shall collect any further

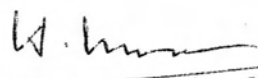
details form the Engineering Control and shall pass it on to S&T/RailTel & Elect. Officials regularly.

7. In case of work being taken up by the State Government, National Highway Authority etc., the detail of the permission given i.e. the nature of work, Kilometer etc. be given to the Engineering control including the contract person's number so that the work can be done in a planned manner. The permission letter shall indicate the contact numbers of Test Room/Network Operations Centre of RailTel/TPC/Elect. Control.
8. Where the nature of the work taken up by the Engineering Department is such that the OFC or other S&T cables or Electrical Cables is to be shifted and relocated, notice of minimum one week shall be given so that the Division/RailTEL/ Construction can plan the works properly for shifting. Such shifting works shall in addition for security and integrity of the cable be supervised by S&T supervisors/RailTel supervisors/Electrical Supervisors.
9. The concerned SE(P.Way)/SE(Works)/SE(Tele)/SE(Elect.) or RailTel supervisors supervising the work of the contractor shall ensure that the existing emergency sockets are not damaged in view of their importance in providing communication during accident/emergency.
10. In case of minor nature of works where shifting of cable is not required, in order to prevent damage to the cable, the Engineering Contractor shall take out the S&T or optical fiber cable or Electrical cable carefully from the trench and place it properly alongside at a safe location before starting the earth work under the supervision of SE(Sig) or SE(Tele) or SE(Elect.). The cable shall be required soon after completion of excavation with proper care including placement of the brick over the cable by the concerned S&T supervisors or Electrical Supervisors. However, the work will be charged the concerned Engineering works.
11. In all the sections where major project are to be taken up/going on RailTel/S&T Department shall deploy their official to take preventive/corrective action at site of work.

12. No new OFC/Quad cable shall be laid close to existing track. It shall be laid close to Railway boundary as per extant instructions i.e. 1.0m from the Railway boundary to the extent possible to avoid any interference with future works (doubling etc.). It shall be ensured in the new works of cable laying that the cable route is properly identified with electronic or Concrete markers. Henceforth, wherever cable laying is planned and before undertaking the laying work, the cable route plan of the same shall be got approved from the concerned Sr. DEN or Dy. CE/Constn. To avoid possible damages in future. Such approvals shall be granted within 7 days of submission of the requests.
13. The works of excavating the trench and laying of the cable should proceed in quick succession, leaving a minimum time between the two activities.
14. Any damage caused to OFC/Quad cable or Electrical cable during execution of the work necessary debit shall be raised on Engineering Department who shall bear the cost of the corrective action.
15. All types of bonds i.e. rail bond cross bond and structure bond shall be restored by the Contractor with a view to keep the rail voltage low to ensure safety of personnel.

The contents of the JPO may be brought to the notice of all the concerned officials.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.


13.9.11
(N.Kumar)
Chief Engineer(Genl)

Copy for information please:

CTE, CBE, CE/TSP, CE/P&D, CE/HQ, CE/TMC, CE/TMS & CE/MRTS