

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT

1.1 The Authority had, in December 2008, published Guidelines for Telecommunications Infrastructure Deployment.¹

1.2 The Authority, is cognisant of the fact that there have been instances where, on routine inspection, it has been noticed that works on the laying of ducts and infrastructures has been of sub-standard specification. There have also been cases which have led to uncertainties over the definition of the terms “verges” and “footways” in the Guidelines in relation to minor roads where there is no physical distinction between the road and the footway or the verge.

1.3 The Authority further acknowledges that in order to further reduce the possibility of duct damages and fiber cuts, which in turn lead to service outage, the Authority believes that the standard depth of cover for telecommunications ducts and cables should not be less than 450mm in any footway or verge.

1.4 In view of the foregoing, Guideline 1.15 is hereby being deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

1.15. Standard Depth of Duct Cover

A Telecommunications Infrastructure Provider shall lay all ducts, sub-ducts, micro ducts and all other types of ducts at the depth for covers as indicated in the table below. In the event that any Telecommunications Infrastructure Provider is, for any reason, unable to lay its infrastructure in accordance with the depth set out in the table below, then it shall promptly inform and seek the approval of the TTO and in so doing shall provide its justifications. It shall be the Telecommunications Infrastructure Provider’s responsibility to ensure that the depths of duct covers, compaction, reinstatement and other related requirement comply with Chapter 9 of the Code of Practice for Service Installation issued by the Ministry of Works. For the avoidance of doubt, where in major or minor roads there is no physical distinction between the road and the footway or between the road and the verge, such an area is to be considered as constituting a carriageway for the purposes of the table below.

¹ <https://www.tra.org.bh/EN/pdf/Guidelinesfortelecominfradeployment-Final.pdf>

| Type of Duct | <i>Type of Pavement</i> | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | <i>Verge</i> | <i>Footway</i> | <i>Carriageway</i> |
| PVC Duct No. 101 | 450 mm | 450 mm | 600 mm |
| PVC Duct No. 96 | | | |
| PVC Duct No. 38 | | | |
| Sub-Duct (SD) | | | |
| Note: Standard depth of cover to top of uppermost barrel of duct or to top of concrete for ducts incased in concrete. | | | |

1.5 This amendment shall become effective as of the 1st of February 2014.

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
15 January 2014