

ESB issued a “Stop Work Notice”

Document No: **IW-HSQE-SA-34**

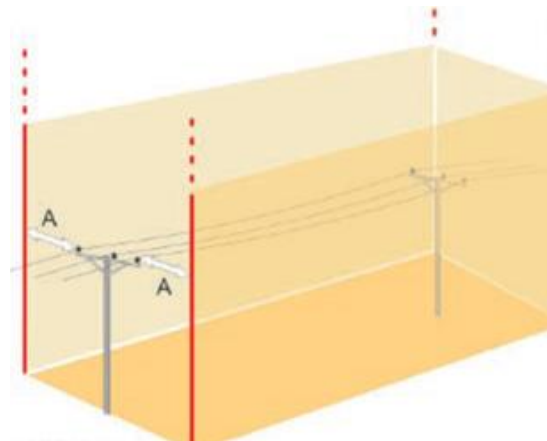
Revision:1.00

Approved By: James Cullen

1. What Happened?

ESB issued a “**Stop Work Notice**” to a contractor working on behalf of IW; that was working in close proximity to overhead electricity powerlines without an adequate Safe System of Work in place.

The Contractor was laying a pipe line using 20T & 13 T excavators; in the “Hazard Zone” of Overhead Electricity Lines without adequate controls to prevent all parts of the plant in use entering the exclusion zone (ref to page 46 of the cop)



2. Immediate Actions

All works in the area were immediately ceased by the ESB. The Contractor liaised with ESB Networks and agreed upon control measures to be implemented prior to works re-commencing.

3. Further Actions

Where work is required within the hazard zone of an overhead electricity

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powerline and there is a risk of accidentally breach of the exclusion zone the following is required:

- The network owner/operator is consulted before works begin;
- There is a comprehensive, detailed safe system of work in place;
- When it is appropriate to de-energise the network, the work does not begin until after the network owner/operator switches out and earths the line. It is not always possible to switch out or divert lines to permit work that could accidentally breach the exclusion zone.
- Where work is permitted that could accidentally breach the exclusion zone, the following minimum precautions apply:
- Prepare a written risk assessment and work method statement in consultation with the people who will be doing the work. (risk assessment must comply with section 7.3.1 of the COP for avoiding danger from overhead powerlines)
- Establish and use a daily permit-to-work system.
- Use only equipment that has certified operational limiters installed to prevent any part of the equipment breaching the exclusion zone.
- In the risk assessment, specify the limits to which the equipment can operate & n site, ensure only a competent person sets and fixes these limits and that the limits are verified by testing.
- .
- Put in place a competent dedicated observer for plant and equipment. The dedicated observer must be able to communicate with the machine operator at all times and must not do any other work while work in the hazard zone is in progress.

4. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

Please click on [Link](#) to see H.S.A code of practice on **Code of Practice for**

SAFETY ALERT

Am I SAFE?



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Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines (May 2019)

SAFETY ALERT

Am I SAFE?



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