Accreditation Organisations:





Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists

International Institute of Utility Specialists

Particular Specification For Water Leakage Detection (WLD Survey) 2021 Edition, Version 1.0



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Foreword

It's been 25 years since the disastrous landslip that occurred in Kwun Lung Lau on Hong Kong Island on 23 July, 1994. Since 1995, the Government of HKSAR has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts related to detection of leakage from buried water carrying services (BWCS) both on slopes and on the roads throughout the territory. As expected, this sequence of events generated an increasingly large pool of "Utility Specialists (US)", with most working almost independently, devoid of any standardized surveying methods, quality requirements (on survey results) and the "registration" of operation professionals in the market before the establishment of HKIUS in 2002.

In view of the availability of the multitude of method statements, specifications, training manuals, and the contracts documents produced for the vast number of underground utility survey contracts (by government and private projects), the following sections try to provide a comprehensive set of method statement, by addressing the following topics in general and where the abbreviation can be found in the Appendix:

- (1) Utility Services Information to be investigated
- (2) Level of Accuracies
- (3) Types of Deliverables and Schedules
- (4) Requirements for Deliverables

You are welcome to take reference to this Particular Specification for your contract and in case you need further information, please refer to relevant manuals or publications by HKIUS/IIUS or send an e-mail to info@hkius.org.hk or call Ir Dr. King Wong.

The

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D1. Description

Utility Specialist shall conduct the preliminary visual inspection and LNC surveys at or between the two prescribed contact points to detect and find any leaks within the Survey Boundary. If LNC survey is found not suitable or could not produce a good result, the Utility Specialist shall carry out further leakage detection surveys by shortening (dividing the main into shorter segments) or shifting the contact points for the LNC surveys and by listening on top of the pipe and exposed features using other mechanical and electronic leak detectors (acoustic detectors) or carry the leakage detection work during midnight or low flow period until reasonable results.

The Utility Specialist shall perform further leak detection surveys at all associated branches of water mains within the corresponding Zone of Influence/survey boundary, and spikes found from the LNC surveys.

If the result from the LNC survey indicates a spike, the Utility Specialist shall carry out further leak detection surveys to verify the suspected leak. In case of the spike being found in the connection with other branch pipes, further leak detection surveys shall be performed to confirm the suspicions. Pinpointing by ELD/MLD for the suspected leaks is required unless otherwise instructed by the client not to carry out.

All LNC set up (contact) points and found leaks shall be marked on-site by red-paint with sufficient information confirmed with the client and photographed for inspection and record.

If contact points cannot be located or alternate contact points are desired, the Utility Specialist is responsible to propose in advance with a layout plan to the client to show the location of the new contact points. The Utility Specialist can break or extend the survey into a shorter or longer segment, but the necessity or request for modifications shall not affect the performance of the survey results.

Contact points include hydrants, accessible valves, exposed pipes, and others as find appropriate. The Utility Specialist shall be responsible to inform the client to expose water mains for creating contact points for LNC survey, if necessary for completion of the leakage detection, and to reinstate the site back to its original condition complying with Highways Department, Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) or related Government departments' requirements and to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

D2. Survey Equipment

D2.1 Types of Equipment

The major equipment to be used for slope leakage detection Contract includes the following items:

- (1) Leak Noise Correlators
- (2) Mechanical Leak Detectors
- (3) Electronic Leak Detectors
- (4) Noise Loggers
- (5) Pipe locators
- (6) Color Closed Circuit Television (for further instruction from client)

Other equipment to be used for the Works includes the following items:

- (1) Measuring tapes and wheels
- (2) Spray paints
- (3) Valve Keys
- (4) Manhole / pit opening tools
- (5) Traffic diversion cones / signs / lights
- (6) Safety equipment (including multi-sequence warning indicator mounted on working vehicle of each leakage detection team)
- (7) Chlorine/fluoride test kits and conductivity meter
- (8) Notice boards
- (9) Camera

Utility Specialist shall submit detailed equipment list to the client for approval before the commencement of the Works. Unless otherwise instructed by the client, the equipment used for the Works shall be approved by the client before any survey is carried out.

D2.2 Introduction of Equipment

Leak Noise Correlator (LNC)

Leak Noise Correlator is a leak location instrument. It shall consist of two microphones (sensors), and/or two hydrophones, and a corrlator. The microphone are attached to contact point while hydrophone are attached to the hydrants along the water main to be surveyed and using the

correlator to cross correlates the leak noise reaching two microphones to calculate the suspected position.

Mechanical Leak Detector

Mechanical Leak Detector is a passive device similar to doctor's stethoscope which transfers the leak noise to the Operator's ear directly through ground microphones.

Electronic Leak Detector

Electronic Leak Detector consists of a microphone, amplifier and frequency filter. The sound of leak is amplified and transmitted to either one of the headphones, loudspeaker or indicating meter electronically. Unwanted noise can be removed by electronic frequency filters.

Noise Logger

Noise Logger is a leak location instrument, which is installed at valves/pipe part along the water main to be surveyed and using the receiver unit to receive the radio signal. The information can be downloaded into a computer to display the leak location.

D3. Survey procedure

D3.1 Leak Noise Correlator survey

D3.1.1 Calibration, Planning and Preparation

- (1) Check Record Plans, Traffic Permit and other information.
- (2) Boundary Definition and Visual Inspections for valves, chambers and pits of different utilities.
- (3) Safety precautions PTW, TTA, PPE.

D3.1.2 Operation by OMHKIUS

The Utility Specialist shall follow the equipment suppliers' operation procedures and instructions to carry out the Leak Noise Correlator survey. The survey procedure shall be described, but not limited to, as the following:

- (1) Connect two microphones (sensors) to the transmitter and processor at either side of the pipe under analysis. Contact points include exposed pipes, valves, hydrants and stopcocks.
- (2) The signal from the transmitter shall be amplified and transmitted by radio telemetry to the processor automatically. The Utility Specialist shall apply different frequencies and filters to obtain the best accuracy results.
- (3) Type of pipe material, pipe diameter, pipe length under investigation shall be entered into the correlator correctly to reflect the field measurement or as provided in the record Drawings.
- (4) Sound propagator from the leak to each sensor. The processor compares this signal and determines the difference between the time taken from the leak to reach one sensor compared to the other, and the distance of the leak from the sensors at each end of the pipe shall be computed and the leak position shall be automatically indicated.

D3.1.3 Report

The survey result shall be checked by MHKIUS (WLD) and to include all necessary information including:

- (1) Name of Operator(s), (A/O/M/FHKIUS)
- (2) Location of Survey,.
- (3) Date and Time of Survey,
- (4) Total length of survey,
- (5) Number of survey setups,
- (6) Results (LNC print outs),
- (7) Analysis of Results,

- (8) Suspected or confirmed leak location with plan,
- (9) Any difficulties encountered,
- (10) Recommendations.

D3.2 Mechanic Leak Detector

D3.2.1 Calibration, Planning and Preparation

- (1) Check Record Plans, Traffic Permit and other information.
- (2) Boundary Definition and Visual Inspections for valves, chambers and pits of different utilities.
- (3) Safety precautions PTW, TTA, PPE.

D3.2.2 Operation by OMHKIUS

The general survey procedure of Mechanic Leak Detector are:

- (1) The Utility Specialist is responsible to find the location and alignment of water main by using pipe locator for locating pipes if necessary.
- (2) Use contact microphone to listen for leak sounds at meters, hydrants, valves and other points of direct contact.
- (3) Place the sensing heads on the ground firmly against the surface.
- (4) Move the sensing heads along the top of water main until the sound is the same intensity in both sensing heads and reaches both ears at the same time. This is the spot directly above the leak.

D3.2.3 Report

Please refer to Clause D3.1.3 in this Particular Specification

D3.3 Electronic Leak Detector

D3.3.1 Calibration, Planning and Preparation

- (1) Check Record Plans, Traffic Permit and other information.
- (2) Boundary Definition and Visual Inspections for valves, chambers and pits of different utilities.
- (3) Safety precautions PTW, TTA, PPE.

D3.3.2 Operation

- (1) Utility Specialist is responsible to find the location and alignment of water main. The Utility Specialist shall use pipe locator for locating pipes if necessary.
- (2) Use contact microphone to listen for leak sounds at meters, hydrants, valves and other points of direct contact.
- (3) Place the sensing heads on the ground firmly against the surface.

(4) Take readings along the top of water main at two meters interval. Listen to the sound, and adjust the filter for the highest response to the leak frequency to locate the leaks.

D3.3.3 Report

Please refer to Clause D3.1.3 in this Particular Specification

D3.4 Noise Logger

D3.4.1 Calibration, Planning and Preparation

- (1) Check Record Plans, Traffic Permit and other information.
- (2) Boundary Definition and Visual Inspections for valves, chambers and pits of different utilities.
- (3) Safety precautions PTW, TTA, PPE.

D3.4.2 Operation

The survey procedure of Noise Logger shall be described, but not limited to, as the following:

- (1) The Utility Specialist shall carry out the preparation works, visual inspection and seepage water sampling and reporting, etc.
- (2) Install loggers to listen for leak sounds at appropriate locations of the pipe under analysis. The spacing between noise loggers shall not exceed 100m unless otherwise requested by the client.
- (3) The data from the logger shall be transmitted by radio signal to the receiver. The logger shall be interrogated from a moving vehicle or human.
- (4) The information shall be downloaded into a computer to display the leak position.

D3.4.3 Report

Please refer to Clause D3.1.3 in this Particular Specification

D4. Quality Control and Quality assurance

D4.1 Result Confirmation

The quality control procedures and the level of accuracy shall be agreed with the client prior to the commencement of any contract. Quality control is essential to maintain the quality of the survey as well as the professionalism of the industry.

Surveys for investigating the buried water carrying services may involve the use of special equipment and techniques, specific knowledge is required for making judgment based on the information available. Employ qualified and experienced personnel to carry out the survey gives a certain level of guarantee on the quality of the survey. The personnel requirements of carrying out the surveys are stated in clause D10

The easiest and most direct way to verify the survey result of water leak detection is exposing the section of water main at the suspected leak location. As the sound cannot be retrieved in the office, the quality check shall be carried out on-site. The accuracy of the survey can be ensured by resurveying using alternative methods. Certain number of site check shall be carried out by other teams in random basis.

Confirmation of LNC result can be performed by exchanging the position of the blue and red transmitter and repeat the survey to see if the result/ the position of the suspected leak point agree with the previous one. Also, qualified leak detection specialist can be employed to reconfirm the leak position using mechanic leak detectors. Other methods like noise loggers can also be considered if appropriate.

There are three accuracy levels of survey result which are LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH. The position and level of locatable services, at the recorded points and intervals defined above, shall be related to grid control points and bench marks which should better than ± 100 mm root mean square error on the ground and better than 80% of a representative sample of points on locatable services, also within ± 5 m or 0.05L (Length) whichever is bigger to define the accuracy level of survey result.

Table D4.1.1 – Accuracy levels of survey result

		locatab	le services sh	nall be within	1
	Stage	Planning	Design	Works	Investigation
	Level	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV
Percentage of a representative sample of points on		±8m; or 0.08L (whichever is higher)	±6.5m; or 0.065L (whichever is higher)	±5m; or 0.05L (whichever is higher)	±5m; or better
locatable services	80%	L	L	M	Н
	85%	L	M	Н	Н
	90%	M	Н	Н	Н

Remarks: The Confidence Level of Investigation can be upto 95% and upto ±165mm by investigation

D5. Deliverable

D5.1 Preliminary Stage

- (1) One set of preliminary digital data.
- (2) One set of paper copy of drawings.
- (3) Control results, including simple description of permanent ground markers.
- (4) One copy of brief technical report drafted by OMHKIUS (WLD) and checked by MHKIUS or RPUS (for major works).
- (5) One set of photographs.

D5.2 Interim Stage (where necessary)

- (1) One set of interim digital data.
- (2) One set of paper drawings in 1:100 scale.
- (3) One copy of interim technical report drafted by OMHKIUS (WLD) and checked by MHKIUS or RPUS.

D5.3 Final Stage

2 copies of Final Report drafted by OMHKIUS (WLD) and checked by MHKIUS or RPUS which is a compilation of all deliverables required under interim stage to incorporate all comments provided by the Engineer.

C6. Deliverable

C6.1 Preliminary Stage

- (1) One set of preliminary digital data.
- (2) One set of paper copy of drawings.
- (3) Control results, including simple description of permanent ground markers.
- (4) One copy of brief technical report drafted by OMHKIUS (WLD) and checked by MHKIUS or RPUS.
- (5) One set of photographs.

C6.2 Interim Stage (where necessary)

- (1) One set of interim digital data.
- (2) One set of paper drawings in 1:100 scale
- (3) One copy of interim technical report drafted by OMHKIUS (WLD) and checked by MHKIUS of RPUS.

C6.3 Final Stage

2 copies of Final Report drafted by OMHKIUS (WLD) and checked by MHKIUS or RPUS which is a compilation of all deliverables required under interim stage to incorporate all comments provided by the Engineer.

D7. Electronic Data File for Utility Services

D7.1 Requirement of Data format

The results of the investigation shall be supplied in DWG/DGN/GIS/IDMS format. All surface and underground features shall be located as described in Clauses C4 in the Particular Specification for Utility Mapping for Non-Destructive Method. Non graphic information shall included in the DWG/DGN/GIS/IDMS file database as block attributes or similar. All data shall be separated by type into a logical system of DWG/DGN/GIS/IDMS layers as approved by the Engineer.

The Contractor shall submit a schedule of DWG/DGN/GIS/IDMS standards to the Engineer for approval, which contain proposed division of investigation data into separate DWG/DGN/GIS/IDMS files and layers; naming conventions; symbol definitions and annotation.

Utility services shall be recorded as continuous features between junctions, surface access points (e.g. stop valve or manhole) or changes in characteristic (e.g. pipe diameter/voltage). Completed lines and line strings the approval from the Engineer.

Data files shall be labeled with the filename, number, extent, size, date of investigation, or revision, to be agreed with the Engineer.

D7.2 Surface features

All surface features defined Clause C1 in this Particular Specification shall be shown in the correct 3D position in the file. Annotations shall be placed at the same z-value as the feature using the correct abbreviation. All surface features should be shown proportionally.

D7.3 Underground services

When under instruction or under scope of Comprehensive Utility Survey (CUS), underground services shall be recorded in three dimensions below each surface feature, at change of direction and bifurcations, and with intervals not exceeding 10 metres. Other than at surface features, the location of the services run shall be marked as a cross at the 3D position at maximum 10 meter intervals. Depth below ground shall be annotated at each surface feature and at changes of depth. Annotation shall be placed at the same z-value as the recorded point. For example:

Where space permits at 1:100 scale, each service run shall be annotated with the type of utility, diameter of pipe or voltage or number of lines etc, at appropriate intervals.

D8. Presentation and Drawing

The investigation results (layout plan only) shall be plotted in 1:100 scale or other scale to be confirmed in A1 drawings on the specified grid and datum approved by the Engineer. The layout, border and title block shall be approved by the Engineer.

The drawings shall show building lines, roads with road names and traffic lane road markings, pavement and kerbs, and other significant physical features within the investigated area.

D9. Preliminary and Final Report

Report shall consist of the followings:

- (1) Introduction
 - a. Project name and Location
 - b. Site appreciation
- (2) Details of Investigation
 - a. Date of Investigation
 - b. Detailed description of the investigation procedure adopted
 - c. All equipment used for the investigation
 - d. Identification of supervisor and equipment operators carrying out the investigation
- (3) Investigation results
 - a. Summary of buried utilities
 - b. Report on examination, analysis and interpretation of the investigation results
 - c. Identification of utilities, chambers, manholes and relevant surface installations
 - d. Records of on-site verification of data handled by qualified person responsible for the report
- (4) Appendix
 - a. Floppy diskettes or CDR for the digital data files of qualitative and numeric data about the underground assets found;
 - b. Engineering Drawings (updated) showing the types and location of various underground assets;
 - c. Survey Photographs 3R colored photographs (prints and negatives/digital copy in JPEG format)

The drawings and textual report will be certified and stamped by the approved qualified person who responsible for the preparation of the report

The Utility Specialist shall supply the Survey Report as described fully as in the above. This report shall include all results with a detailed discussion and accompanying plans. It shall be prepared and signed by an qualified person who shall hold one of the following qualifications:

- (1) MHKIUS (WLD) with two years local post qualification experience or RPUS if required; or
- (2) MICE, or MHKIE or MHKIS with 84-hour-professional level training and 2 years of post-qualification relevant experiences

D10. Personnel Requirement

In order to maintain the Utility Profession's requirements for the consistency, reliability and accuracy of reports, inspection shall be performed by a properly trained and accredited personnel, for example, OMHKIUS or MHKIUS.

Personnel responsible for surveying and report preparation shall hold a certified qualification issued by a Registered Training Organization (RTO), such as Utility Training Institute (UTI) or The Hong Kong Polytechnic University or equivalent approved by HKIUS.

A certified qualification shall be:

A Degree, a Professional Diploma, a Professional Certificate or equivalent approved by HKIUS in Utility Surveying and Management or related subject awarded by a RTO such as Utility Training Institute or The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Further information can be referred to the Appendix A2 in this PS.

References

- (1) 3M Cable Locator User Manual / Radio Detection (RD) User Manual
- (2) Course Note, Advanced Water Leakage Detection/Survey for Operators, Engineer/ Specialists and managers, UTI, 2005
- (3) DC96/19, Investigation of Sewers and Drains Behind and Adjacent Fill Slopes and Retaining Walls, Drainage Services Department.
- (4) Constitution, Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists, 2020
- (5) Method Statement for Water Leak Detection, HKIUS, 2011.
- (6) Sample report for Water Leak Detection, HKIUS, 2020
- (7) W. Lai, S. Tsang & K. Wong, Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar in Civil Engineering Works, 2004
- (8) Work procedures for Water Leak Detection, HKIUS, 2011
- (9) Code of Practice on Monitoring & Maintenance of Water Carrying Services Affecting Slopes, ETWB (2006), Hong Kong SAR Government.

Appendix

A1 Abbreviations

Company/ Organization
Description
Buildings Department, HKSARG
Civil Engineering and Development, HKSARG
Drainage Services Department, HKSARG
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, HKSARG
Environmental Protection Department, HKSARG
Hong Kong Housing Authority, HKSARG
Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists, HKSARG
Hong Kong Utility Research Centre
Highways Department, HKSARG
International Institute of Utility Specialists
Lands Department, HKSARG
Labour Department, HKSARG
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Utility Training Institute
Water Research Centre
Water Services Association Australia
Water Supplies Department, HKSARG
Others
Description
Percentage
Bitmap (Picture Format)
Buried Water Carrying Service

	Company/ Organization
CCE(CCTV & ME)	Conduit Condition Evaluation(Closed Circuit Television & Man- Entry)
CCES	Conduit Condition Evaluation Specialists
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CD	Compact Disc
CL	Cover Level
СОР	Code of practice
СР	Competent Person
DN	Nominal Diameter
DP	Design Pressure
DVD	Digital Versatile Disc
e.g.	Exempli Gratia
GIS	Geo-Information System
EPR	Environmental Protection Requirements
etc.	et cetera
GL	Ground Level
Н	Height
HKCCEC	Hong Kong Conduit Condition Evaluation Codes
HPWJ	High Pressure Water Jetting
hr	Hour
Hz	Hertz
ICG	Internal Condition Grade
ID	Internal Diameter
IDMS	Integrated Data Management System
IL	Invert Level
ISO	International Standards Organization
JPEG	Joint Photographic Experts Group (Picture Format)

	Company/ Organization
kHz	Kilo- Hertz
kPa	Kilopascal
m	Meter(s)
ME	Man Entry
MHICS	Manhole Internal Condition Survey
mm	Millimetre(s)
Mpa	Megapascal
MPEG	Motion Picture Experts Group (Video Format)
MS	Method Statement
MSCC	Manual of Sewer Condition Classification, UK
OHSAS	Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
ppm	Parts per million
PS	Particular Specification
PSI	Pound Per Square Inch
QA/ QC	Quality Assurance/ Quality Control
Ref.	Reference
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
RPUS	Recognized Professional Utility Specialist
RTO	Registered Training Organization
SCG	Service Condition Grades
SOPs	Safe Operator Procedures
SPF	Sun Protection Factor
SPG	Structural Performance Grade
SRM	Sewer Rehabilitation Manual
STP	System Test Pressure
TTA	Temporary Traffic Arrangement

	Company/ Organization
US	Utility Specialist
VHS	Video High Speed
W	Width
WLD	Water Leakage Detection
WO	Works Order
WP	Work Procedure

A2 Requirements for Personnel Carrying Out Inspection

Training ar	nd Experience Requirements for 1	Training and Experience Requirements for Personnel Carrying Out Inspection (HKIUS standard, 2020)		
Title	Role	Minimum Training Requirement	Minimum Years of Practical Experience	Qualification
Project Leader	Responsible for contract administration and preparation, checking and certifying of reports for compliance with the technical specification.	> At least 35 hours of CPD every year > At least 14 hours for refreshment training in every three years > Relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data collection > Has attended training courses of 84 hrs or trade test for relevant survey / detection methods, and Possesses a valid technical specification, training certificate for relevant survey / detection methods used	10 years in contract administration, preferably in works related to the inspection, survey and in data management.	Either: M/FHKIUS, RPUS plus CP, CW, DCP, DCW or MHKIE / R.P.E., MHKIS / R.P.S. plus CP, CW, DCP, DCW or equivalent and relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data management
Deputy Project Leader	Responsible for assisting project leader and acting the post of project leader when project leader temporary not with the team.	> At least 35 hours of CPD every year > At least 14 hours for refreshment training in every three years > Relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data collection > Has attended training courses of 84 hrs or trade test for relevant survey / detection methods, and Possesses a valid training certificate for relevant survey / detection methods used	10 years in contract administration, preferably in works related to the inspection, survey and in data management.	Either: M/FHKIUS, RPUS plus CP, CW, DCP, DCW or MHKIE / R.P.E., MHKIS / R.P.S. plus CP, CW DCP, DCW or equivalent and relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data management
Team	Responsible for works arrangement and data processing including checking of raw data for quality and consistency.	> At least 35 hours of CPD every year > At least 14 hours for refreshment training in every three years > Relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data collection > Has attended training courses of 84 hrs or trade test for relevant survey / detection methods, and Possesses a valid training certificate for relevant survey / detection methods used	5 years in works related to the inspection, survey and in data management.	M / FHKIUS, RPUS, CP, CW, DCP, DCW or equivalent
Crew	Responsible for supervising the field works and site safety.	> At least 35 hours of CPD every year > At least 14 hours for refreshment training in every three years > Relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data collection > Has attended training courses of 84 hrs or trade test for relevant survey / detection methods, and Possesses a valid training certificate for relevant survey / detection methods used	3 years in works related to the inspection, survey and in data collection	O / MHKIUS, CP, CW, DCP, DCW or equivalent
Operators	Responsible for operating equipment and carrying out inspection and survey.	> At least 35 hours of CPD every year > At least 14 hours for refreshment training in every three years > Relevant training in RTO (e.g. PolyU, UTI) for surveys and data collection > Has attended training courses of 84 hrs or trade test for relevant survey / detection methods, and Possesses a valid training certificate for relevant survey / detection methods used	2 years in works related to the inspection, survey and in data collection.	AMHKIUS, CP, CW, DCP, DCW or equivalent