

# Setting the Scene

**“What’s that Code for...?”**

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# Setting the Scene



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## NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE

for

## UTILITY OPERATORS' ACCESS to TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

*Updated Version 2*

*Approved by the Minister of Infrastructure*

*15 July 2019*

**THINK SAFE  
WORK SAFE  
HOME SAFE**

**Your guide to working on the road and staying alive!**

Published by the **New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group**

These guidelines are based on the National Code of Practice for Utility Operators' Access to Transport Corridors and the Guide for Safety with Underground Services.

**Auckland Transport** **before4dig.co.nz** **Chorus** **Christchurch City Council**  
**New Zealand Contractors Federation** **NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY** **POWERco** **Watercare**

Revised March 2018



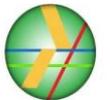
## The Code

### What is it?

A Code of Practice for Utility Operators (UOs) for when they want to access the Transport Corridors for the installation, maintenance and operation of their assets.

### What does it cover?

The rules and processes for Utility Operators to access Transport Corridors, and for Corridor Managers (CMs) to manage that access appropriately.



## What's in the Code

- Process for getting access to transport corridors
- Important information for daily activities
- Trenching Criteria
- Reinstatement Criteria
- Reporting Requirements
- Communication between Asset Owners



## Why is the Code Important

- Enables UO's access to transport corridors to be managed.
- Maximises the benefit to the public
- Ensures disruptions are kept to a minimum
- Maintains Safety
- Provides a nationally consistent approach



## What's the status of the Code

- It is **mandatory**
- Provides guidance for CMs and Operational staff how to comply with the Utilities Access Act 2010
- Cannot override other legislation e.g. RMA, LGA, Utilities legislation.



## Who looks after the Code

- Industry (Self Regulation): Utility Operators and Corridor Managers
- The Minister for Infrastructure (approves the Code changes)
- Treasury New Zealand Infrastructure Commission (advises the Minister)
- New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group (administers the Code)



## What is the New Zealand Utility Advisory Group

- Formed in 2001, incorporated in 2013
- 52 members/associate members
- Board 5 Corridor Manager Representatives  
5 Utility Operators Representatives  
Independent Chair

Membership fees:

\$2000 p/a full member

\$500 p/a associate member



## What does NZUAG do?

- Guardian of **The Code** under the **Utilities Access Act**
- Responsible for administration, review, and effective implementation of the Code
- Funded solely by members
- Engage in activities that promote the interests of members and associate members
- Key sponsor of the RIMS conference



## NZUAG Work Programme

- Code Review (every 3 years)
- Code Education (Seminars and webinars)
- Code Compliance (currently underway)
- Communications (The Corridor)
- Code Effectiveness Working Group

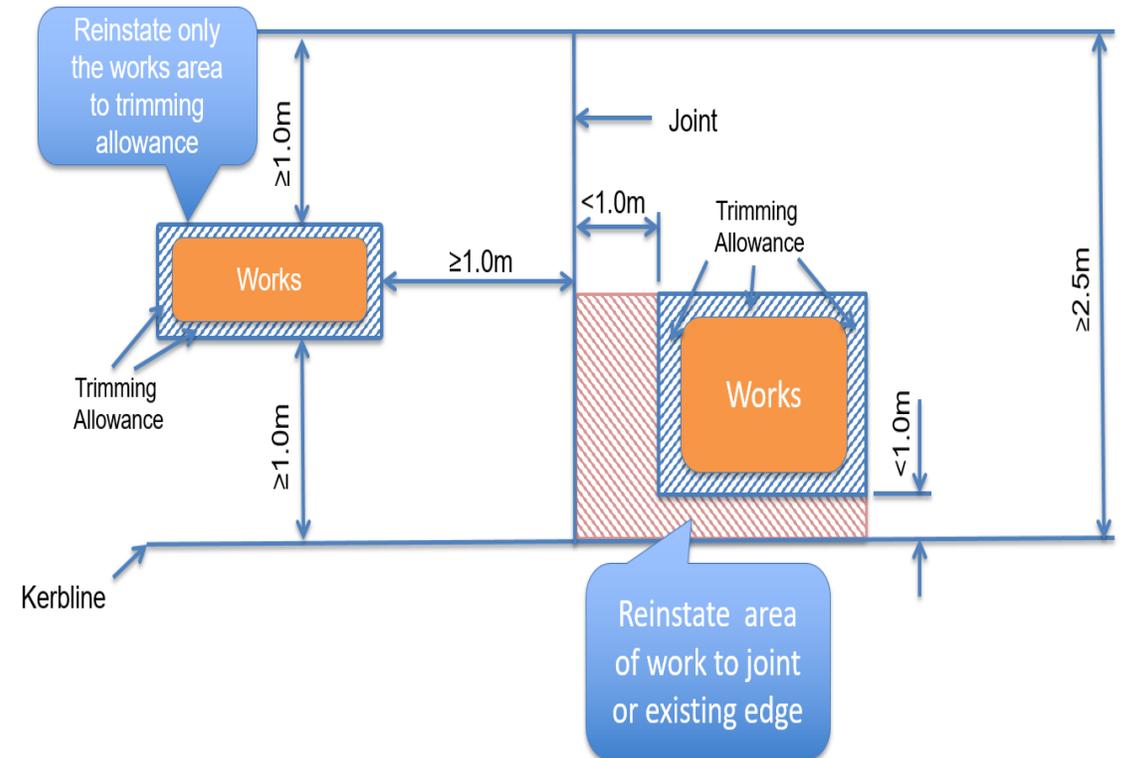


A collage of images related to NZUAG. At the top is the cover of 'THE CORRIDOR' newsletter, Issue 4, 2020, with the headline 'THE PURPOSE OF THE CORRIDOR IS TO UPDATE &amp; CONNECT'. Below this are two columns of text. The left column is titled 'NZUAG FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE' and discusses the impact of COVID-19 on NZUAG's funding and activities. The right column is titled 'MONTHLY UTILITIES GROUP MEETINGS CAN BE SUCCESSFUL' and encourages regular meetings. Below the text are photos of a meeting and a person. At the bottom of the collage is a quote: 'SAFETY ISN'T EXPENSIVE IT'S PRICELESS' with decorative snowflake graphics.



## Recent Code Review Outcomes

- Generally Code is fit for purpose
- Minor amendments –
  - Kiwi Rail links have been updated
  - Trimming allowance for over breaks reduced from 5m to 1m
  - Permanent reinstatement timeframe increased from 7 days to 10 days
  - Two new sections 4.2 and 4.10 CMs required to talk to UOs about moving assets early on.
- Improved diagrams to provide clarity



## Future Landscape

- Significant funding commitments from Government
- Pressure of roll out expectations
- Aging assets increasing risks of failures
- Corridor congestion
- Need for good locator services
- Need for improved liaison between UOs and CMs
- Importance of the Code for access and maximizing investment



## Conclusions

- The Code is critical to industry and NZ
- Need for balance between UOs and CMs essential
- Balances the needs of the UOs and CMs
- Importance of good access given current funding climate
- Code compliance needs much improvement
- Next code review 2022, but will collect good ideas anytime
- NZUAG needs your support to make our industry work
- Help us to help you



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