

EXTERNAL DUCTS AND CHAMBER WORKS

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Sub-ducting, rodding and cabling through the buried network — and the chambers you do not climb into

KD-RAMS-DC-005 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5 — this document is the recorded safe system of work. The trade's own product is extra-low voltage, but the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 govern the trade anyway: data containment shares ceilings, risers and boards' airspace with the mains, and regs 4 and 14 — safe systems, and no work near live conductors without justification and precautions — apply at every basket that crosses a busbar and every board a patch lead passes. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 cover the ceiling, riser and external work; CDM 2015 applies on construction sites and the fit-outs where most of this trade's hours are worked, and the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 govern the drums, racks and cabinets the trade moves. Optical fibre work follows the laser-safety practice the equipment manufacturer specifies: unterminated fibre is never viewed with the naked eye and live fibre is never assumed dark. Prepared against legislation current at 10/08/2026.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

External telecoms civils interface work — locating and opening chambers, rodding and roping ducts, installing sub-duct and cable between chambers, and reinstating covers — on private networks and, under the operator's rules, public ones.

This document does not cover: excavation and new duct laying (KD-RAMS-GW series), work in the public highway without the streetworks arrangements in place, and ENTRY into any chamber — chambers are worked from the surface; entry is confined-space work under KD-PTW-CS-004 and its own assessment.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Striking hidden services when drilling, cutting or fixing

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Check drawings and the services register, scan with a CAT before drilling or chasing into existing fabric, respect safe zones, and stop and reassess if an unrecorded service is found.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Manual handling of boards, materials and components

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Mechanical aids first — trolleys, board lifters, hoists. Two-person lifts for boards and long components; order materials in manageable sizes; plan storage close to the workplace; keep carrying routes clear and lit.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Interface with occupants, other trades and the public

At risk: Occupants, other trades, the public

Controls: Segregate the work area — barriers, signage, sheeting; agree access routes and working hours with the occupier; never obstruct escape routes; deliveries and waste runs outside peak movement times where agreed.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Wind, ice and rain on exposed external work

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Forecasts checked before external work; wind limits per the access method and task; wet and iced surfaces change the footing and access assessment; exposed work paused when conditions leave the limits the RAMS sets.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. The chamber — gas, water and a lid that fights back

At risk: Operatives, public

Controls: Covers lifted with keys and lifters, backs and fingers out of the fight — seized covers eased, not snatched; the open chamber barriered the moment the lid moves and never left open unattended; work from the surface only — no head-and-shoulders leaning into the chamber; gas detection where the operator's rules or the RAMS require it before working over the open pit; lids re-seated and proved before leaving.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Rodding and cabling against blockages and shared ducts

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Rods pushed with hands clear of the coil, faces off the duct mouth — a rod under load whips; blocked ducts investigated, never charged; existing cables in shared ducts identified before pulling; winch pulls only within the calculated tensions and never with anyone over an open chamber on the route.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

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continued

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Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 01 Route walked, chambers located and their condition assessed; barriers and signage set before the first lid lifts.
- 02 Covers lifted with the proper irons, chambers checked from the surface, atmosphere tested where required.
- 03 Ducts proved by rodding and roping between chambers; blockages recorded and resolved without force.
- 04 Sub-duct and cable installed within tension limits, lubricated, with communication along the route.
- 05 Cables sealed and recorded at each chamber; covers re-seated, proved solid, and the highway or ground left clean.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Cover keys and lifting irons
- Duct rods, ropes, lubricant and winch with tension awareness

Barriers, signage and gas detector where required

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- Head protection
- Safety footwear
- High visibility
- Gloves — task-rated
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

No permit is normally required for this activity. The site's own rules may still require one — check before starting, and record any permit issued below.

PERMITS ISSUED FOR THIS WORK (OR NONE)

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	review	Reviewed against the internal H&S director's batch findings; no change to this document.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.