



June 21, 2024

Infrastructure Design Manual
6.2.01.E.2.a and 6.2.01.E.2.b

To All Interested Parties:

The 2023 edition of the City of Houston Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) was effective November 27, 2023. The manual is being updated to reflect changes to the level of Subsurface Utility Exploration (SUE) required for verification of public utility locations.

The update addresses the level of SUE required when variances are being requested for utility clearances and the level of SUE required at utility crossings.

Please keep in mind that the purpose of IDM is to establish the basic criteria from which engineers can design infrastructure in a manner acceptable to the Department and is not intended to address all design conditions or specialized situations. A supplement to the City's IDM is attached and is effective immediately.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
Richard P Smith

Richard P. Smith, P.E., PTOE, CFM, ENV SP
Interim City Engineer/Interim Director
Houston Public Works

Attachment:
IDM Supplement, 6.2.01.E.2.a and 6.2.01.E.2.b

IDM 6.2.01.E.2.a and 6.2.01.E.2.b

LEVEL OF SUE REQUIRED

The following supplement modifies IDM Chapter 6. Where a portion of the IDM is deleted by this Supplement, the unaltered portion of the IDM shall remain in effect.

Delete existing articles 6.2.01.E.2.a and 6.2.01.E.2.b and replace with the following:

- a. For private projects, if a quality level C or D SUE indicates that the proposed utility has a horizontal or vertical clearance that is less than what is required in this manual for water lines or sanitary sewer force mains, a quality level B SUE is required to confirm location of the existing water line or force main. If a quality level B SUE cannot provide an accurate horizontal and/or vertical location of the water line or force main, a quality level A SUE is required. If a quality level A SUE is required and the proposed utility is parallel to the existing water line or force main, the quality level A SUE is required at intervals of every 500 feet within the limits where there is less than sufficient horizontal clearance as indicated by the quality level B, C or D SUE. A quality level A or B SUE must be provided in order to be granted a variance for utility clearance.
- b. For private projects in which underground trenchless construction will be performed, if a quality level C or D SUE indicates that the proposed utility will cross (above or below) an existing water line or sanitary sewer force main with less than 10 feet of vertical clearance from exterior of the existing water line or force main to exterior of the proposed utility, a quality level A or B SUE is required to confirm the location of the existing water line or force main. If minimum clearances cannot be maintained, see article 6.2.01.E.2.a.

END OF SUPPLEMENT

To be included in the next publication of the Infrastructure Design Manual.

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6/20/2024

 Date