

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
 DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
 MINING AND TUNNELING UNIT



Underground Classification Requirements

Under California law, all tunnels (except horizontal directional drilling, which is at District Manager's discretion), underground chambers, and excavations, and all pipejacking and boring projects 30 inches or greater in diameter, are required to be Classified by the Division prior to bidding. This requirement is provided for in California Labor Code, Section 7955 [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml], and Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 8422 [<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/8422.html>].

In order to proceed with classifying any underground projects, we require the following information:

1. The complete name and mailing address of the owner of the completed facility or structure.
2. The physical location and size (outside diameter and overall length) for each tunnel.
***Note:** Location should either be a street address or the distance from nearest street intersection.*
***Example:** The 42-inch-diameter, 280-foot-long tunnel bore located beneath the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, approximately 1,500 feet northeast of the intersection of Third Street and Highland Avenue, Oakland, Alameda County.*
3. One copy of **half-size** plan and profile drawings showing the relationship and identity of any existing utilities.
4. One copy of any geological information and/or soils reports that are proximate to, or representative of, the conditions existing at the site of the underground construction work, especially as they relate to the presence of flammable gases and hydrocarbons.
5. Any current or past use of the surface area which may have caused contamination of the soils by fuels, oils, solvents, or other chemicals such as: gas stations; auto body and paint shops; industrial and agricultural fuel tanks; chemical manufacturing and processing facilities, etc.
6. Location of any utilities in the area.

Please provide the copies of your plan and profile drawings, pertinent geological reports and logs, a statement on past historical use, and any other factors bearing on the possibility of encountering flammable or toxic gases in the area where the underground construction activity is being undertaken.

Additional Information

- Please mail or deliver your classification request (most are too large for our email server), and address your request to the office located closest to the project, not to a specific individual.
- Provide contact name, company/agency, telephone number, mailing address, and email address.
- We try to respond within two weeks; it may be longer depending on workload.
- We do not charge a fee for an underground classification. However, if a Permit to Use Diesel Equipment Underground is required, the fee is \$50 (payable to "State of California"). Contact this office for information regarding diesel permits.

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