

Golden Rules of Safety

Safety cannot be taken for granted

Schiphol wants to be a safe place for everyone, passengers, visitors and workers alike. Safety is not something we can take for granted, however, which is why we formulated the Golden Rules of Safety. The Golden Rule of Safety in this brochure focuses on excavation/digging and working in the soil.

The soil on which Schiphol is built contains a huge amount of underground utilities, all of which are vital to airport operations. As such, we must make every effort to prevent disruption and incidents. And when you do any digging, that responsibility is also yours. You are also personally at risk if you just start digging without preparations. The area around Schiphol still contains explosive remnants from WWII. The soil is also contaminated in some places. As a result, digging and excavation work is not without risks. Our Golden Rule of Safety is therefore:

I only do excavation work with an exemption from the prohibition on digging

All ground-moving work is forbidden at Schiphol unless you have an exemption from the prohibition on digging. You are responsible for requesting such an exemption and for complying with its conditions.

What are the risks of excavation work?

Below is a list of the risks associated with digging and working in wells and trenches:

- Damaging cables or piping during digging, but also when installing sheet piling or a simple (marker) stake.
Hazard: electrical shock, electrocution, explosion or a spill.
- Water nuisance from rain or groundwater.
- Exposure to contamination in soil and/or groundwater.
- Explosion of unexploded ordnance.

**The basic principle is therefore that digging and excavation work is not allowed!
Digging is allowed only with an exemption from this prohibition.**

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I only do excavation work with an exemption from the prohibition on digging Golden Rules of Safety

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Heb je tips of opmerkingen hoe deze toolbox beter kan? Of wil je jouw mening met ons delen?

We horen het graag via:
safe_office@schiphol.nl.

Schiphol

How to apply for an exemption from the prohibition on digging?

There are three steps in applying for an exemption from the prohibition on digging:

1. Report the project to the central permit consultation group (COV) to obtain the required permits. Send an email to vergunningen@schiphol.nl.
2. If digging is unavoidable, you must follow this procedure:
 - Request an exemption from the prohibition on digging. Do this by sending an email to permits_klic@schiphol.nl.
 - Request an inspection for explosive remnants from WWII (unexploded ordnance). You can do this by sending an email to bodemzaken@schiphol.nl.
3. Submit a request for advice on groundwork via the Soil Affairs Desk ('loket Bodemzaken'). Do this by sending an email to bodemzaken@schiphol.nl.

You will then receive:

- An exemption from the prohibition on digging
- A soil declaration (BKV)
- A recommendation regarding unexploded ordnance (OO)

The exemption from the prohibition on digging, soil declaration and recommendation on unexploded ordnance will specify the conditions according to which you are permitted to dig.

Make sure you are well prepared

Keep the following in mind in order to protect Schiphol's cabling and piping:

- All underground cables and pipes must be traced and protected from damage or dislocation.
- You have a work plan approved by Schiphol, which includes a Task Risk Analysis (TRA) or Health & Safety Plan (V&G-plan), incl. a Risk Inventory and Evaluation (RI&E).
- Moreover, the CROW 500 directive applies to excavation and digging operations.

Correct practice for digging

- Always follow the instructions in the exemption from the prohibition on digging.
- If you are in any doubt as to the safety conditions, interrupt the work.
- Do not search for a solution yourself but ask others, such as your manager or supervisor or the person who issued the permit.
- Cease all work immediately if you suspect soil contamination or detect objects or substances that should not be in the soil, such as asbestos or explosives. You must also report this to your supervisor/manager immediately.
- Store the excavated soil with due care, i.e. never on top of a utility, and always maintain a clear area of at least 50 cm from the edge of the work pit or trench.
- Adequate bracing measures must be implemented or an adequate slope calculated to prevent a cave-in or employees being buried in soil.
- The control measures for digging work must be in line with the expected soil load. The required load-bearing capacity must be established precisely.

TIPS:

- Be alert at all times!
- If in doubt, don't start the work.
- Consult with your manager or supervisor.