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Amsterdam Airport
Schiphol

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

Schiphol

Creating safe performance at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol

The 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 soil at Schiphol may still contain explosive war remnants from the Second World War. 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

At Schiphol, all ground-disturbing activities are prohibited, unless you have an Exemption from the excavation ban, a valid soil survey report, and advice on explosive wartime remnants. 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.

Therefore, the starting point is: it is forbidden to dig! Digging is only allowed with an Excavation Ban Exemption, a valid soil survey statement, and advice on explosive war remnants.

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. Is digging necessary? Then this is needed:
 - Request an Exemption from the digging ban. See the permits page for more information about permits.
 - An investigation into explosive war remnants. A request can be sent via 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.
- Before starting execution, read the BKV and OO advice carefully and make sure that all conditions and actions are met.

Correct practice for digging

- Always follow the instructions given in the Exemption for excavation prohibition, BKV, and OO advice.
- 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.