

The Conduit Inventory Process

Underground audits are necessary for safety maintenance, security against trespass, and staying up-to-date on regulations. Audits benefit all parties involved—the asset owners, occupants, contractors, and auditors.

1 Determine Project Scope



The beginning of any underground infrastructure audit is to determine the project footprint. In what cities, states, or regions are the wire centers (in the case of telecommunications) or service areas (electric power) to be included in the audit.

2 Road Closure and Permits



Once each handhole or manhole is located, road closure preparation is crucial for vaults located in the public right-of-way. A vault audit in a ROW area cannot be executed without a road closure permit.

After permits are obtained, area officials will select times for road closure. Then, the auditors and contractors get to work.

3 Audit Preparation



The first thing is to ensure no hazards exist in the confined-space. Often, the vault will be filled with runoff storm water that must be removed prior to entry. Once the water is removed, the air quality must be tested and fresh air blown into the space. When it is safe, the techs enter and the inspection begins.

4 Inventory and Inspection



Auditors inventory each knockout and cable, identifying any unauthorized occupants and ensuring construction best-practices have been followed since installation. Inventory includes photographs of the duct layout, violations, and maintenance or safety issues with the vault like broken racking apparatus, disintegrating concrete, and so on.

5 Information Recording



Auditors record all unoccupied space available for lease. Techs generate butterfly diagrams of each space to show the entire structure, from top to bottom. All information is uploaded into a software system. Clients have the option to view audit information in the system, even after it is complete.

6 Information Delivery



When the audit is finalized, a closing package is delivered to the client for their compliance team. If any violation or trespass has been found, this package will assist in recouping lost revenue, how to approach unpermitted occupants, and how to move forward with a complete awareness of underground facilities.