



Briefing 16-25 July 2016

Steam Cleaning of Vehicles

APSE conducted a Network Query in May 2016 on the use of Steam Cleaning prior to service and safety inspection. The responses are shared here in graphical format.

Key issues:

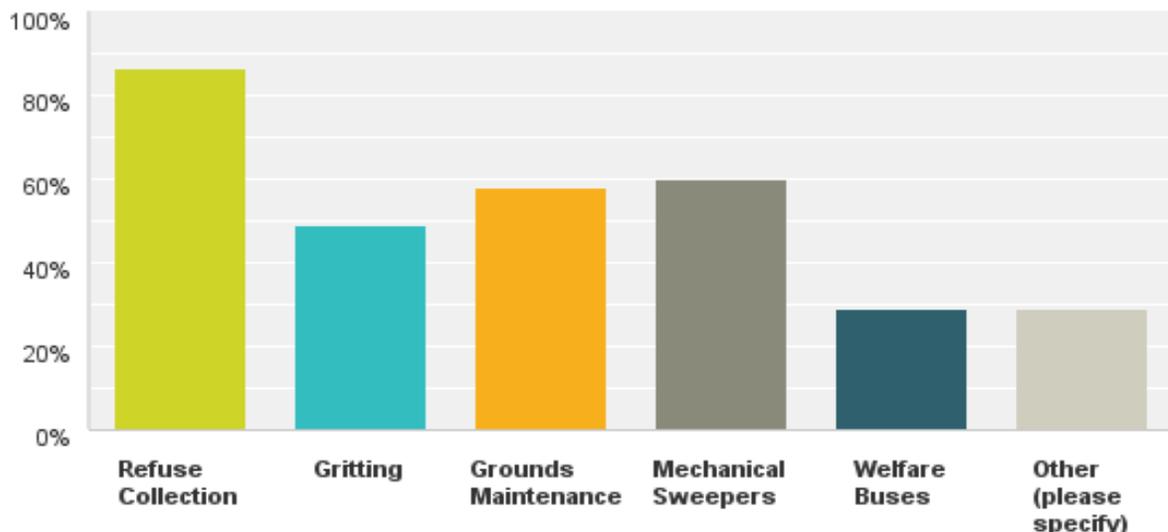
- Steam Cleaning is a necessary part of the testing/ inspection and maintenance regime
- There appear to be no standard frequencies for steam cleaning vehicles
- Fleet operators who steam clean significantly more or less than the median may wish to ask themselves why?

Introduction

Steam cleaning of local authority environmental vehicles is an essential part of the maintenance regime, especially where the vehicles are subject to contact with a variety of indeterminate matter and waste bacteria. Steam cleaning ensures that maintenance operations can be carried out in a more pleasant atmosphere, vehicle parts are not hidden by oil and grime and bacteria is minimised. Specific arrangement to deal with any effluent run-off are essential to avoid pollution of watercourses.

Q1 What types of vehicle are steam cleaned prior to routine safety/service inspections

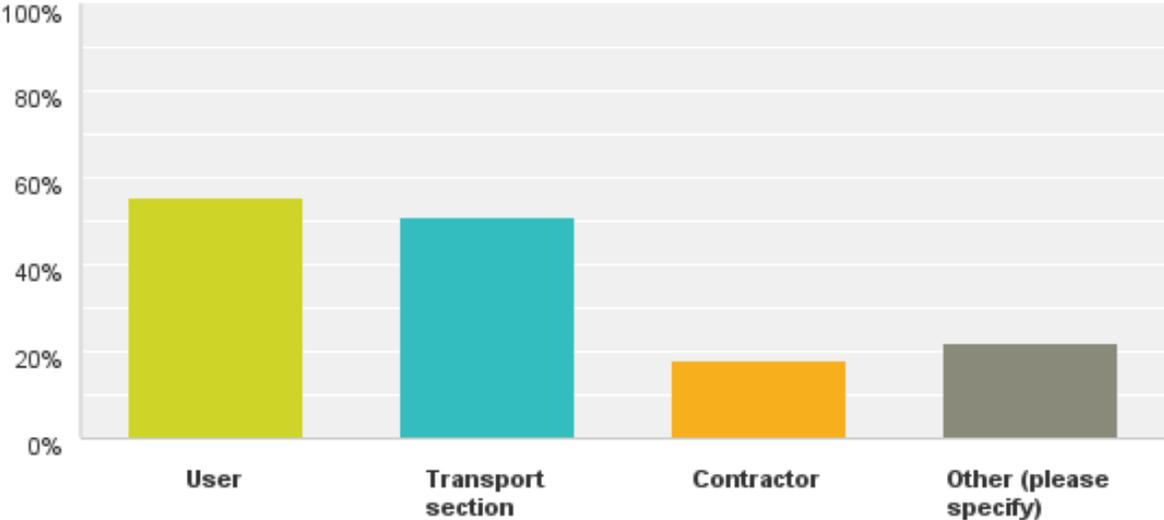
Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



We asked the types of vehicle steam cleaned prior to inspection. The responses reflect the mix of vehicles in a particular fleet and some authorities may not do waste collection but refuse vehicles are the most cleaned, followed by grounds and street cleansing vehicles with gritters lower, probably due to a level of seasonality.

Q2 Who is responsible for steam cleaning?

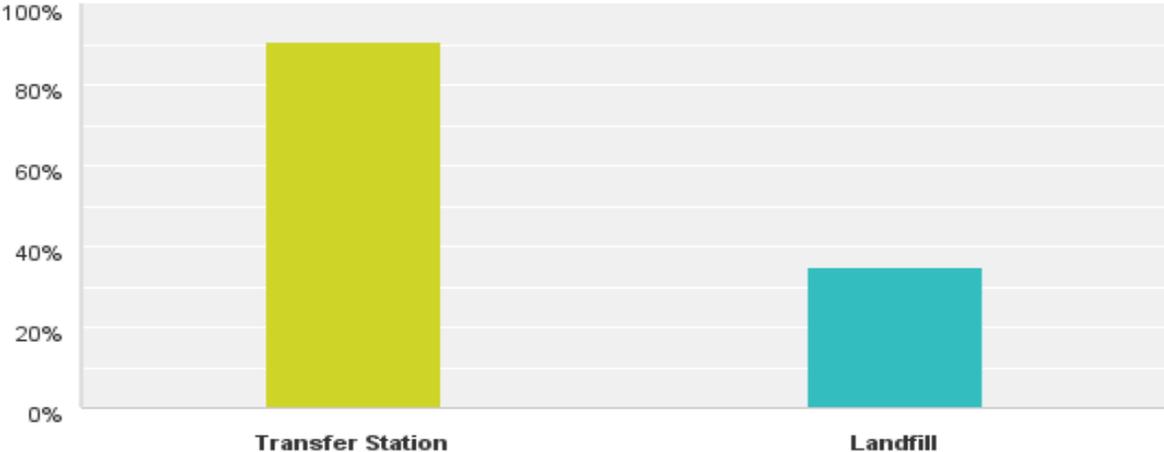
Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Responsibility for steam cleaning appears to rest equally between the users of vehicles and the transport section itself. This suggests that some authorities require the vehicle to be cleaned before it arrives at the garage and some accept the vehicle dirty.

Q4 What are your waste disposal arrangements?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 2

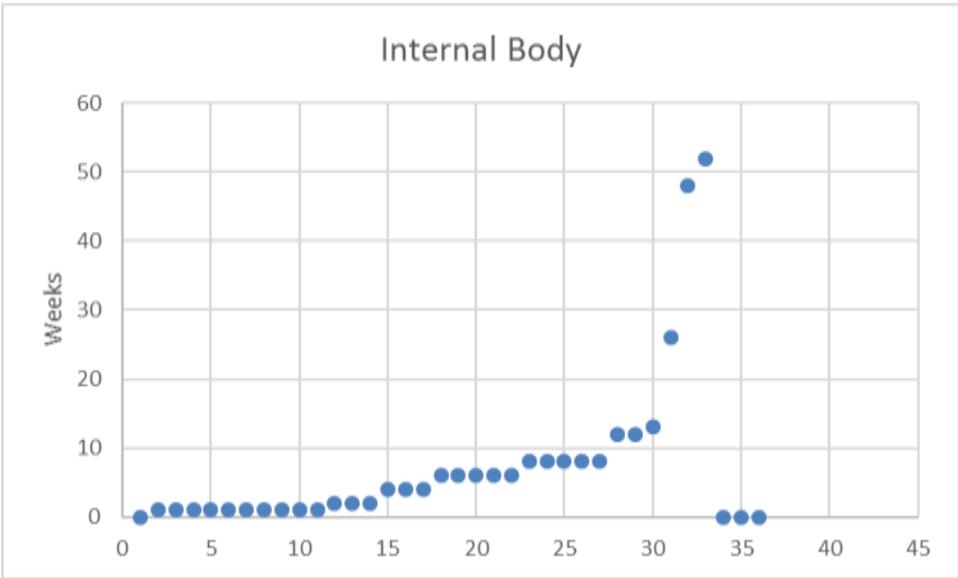
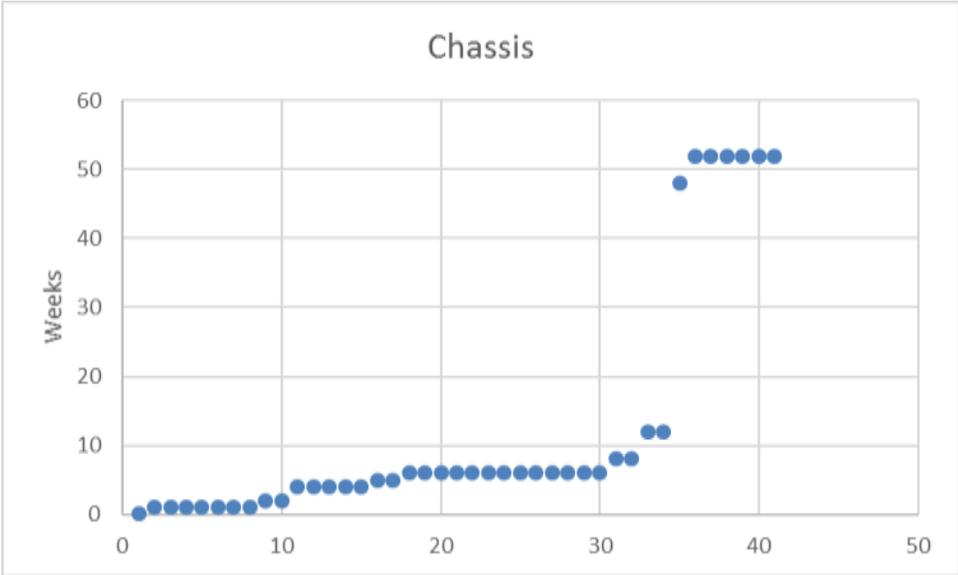


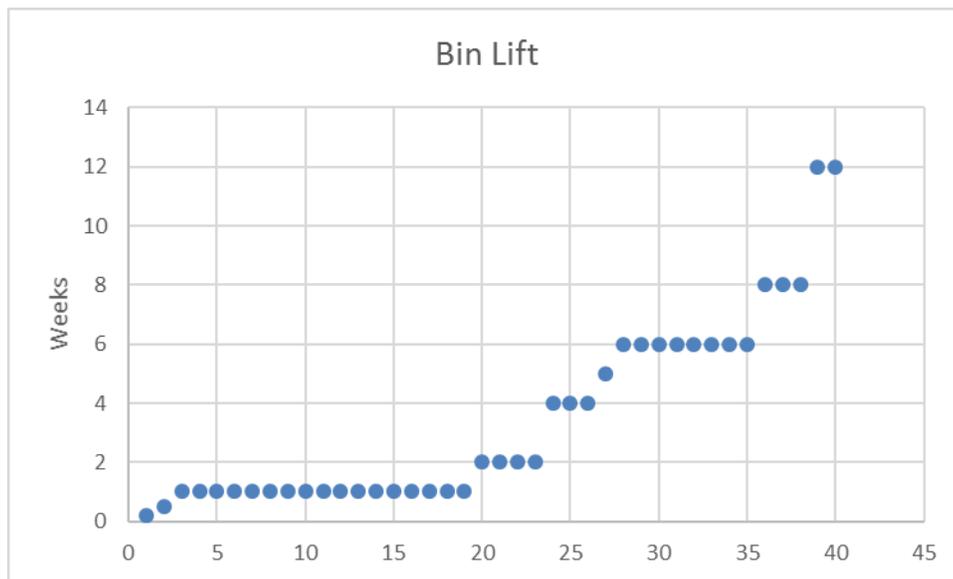
Whilst those who answered had a mixture of transfer stations, landfill and both, there were no obvious trends identified in the cleaning regimes

Frequency

We asked how often the chassis, internal body and bin lift were cleaned. The results are wide ranging with the bin lift being steam cleaned on average every 3.5 weeks. The median is perhaps the more relevant here showing 2 weeks for the bin-lift, 5 for the internal body and 6 for the chassis

| | Chassis | Internal body | Bin lift |
|---------|---------|---------------|----------|
| Average | 12.7 | 7.9 | 3.5 |
| Median | 6 | 5 | 2 |





We asked whether ‘Other than risk assessments do you have any written procedures in place?’ 45% of fleet maintenance services had additional written procedures for steam cleaning however the slight majority did not.

APSE Comment

Many activities within a fleet maintenance organisation grown up as the result of years of an agreed consensus. Whilst many vehicle maintenance operations carry specific times to complete, some of the ancillary tasks such as steam cleaning **operate on a ‘rule of thumb’ taking significant time but not always recorded.**

APSE makes no recommendation as to the correct frequency for steam cleaning as individual circumstance will vary, however for those whose cleaning regime is significantly more or less than the median, it may be financially wise to reflect on why a particular frequency has been adopted and if it remains optimal.

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