



The new Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice

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The new code

- The final version of the Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice was published on 28 October 2016.
- Local authorities have until 28 October 2018 to implement it.
- The new Code replaces the Well-Maintained Highways Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management of July 2005.

What's the headline?



- The new Code based on a principle that highway authorities will adopt a risk-based approach to asset management
- Taking account of local needs, priorities and affordability (but be careful on that one!).

Status of the guidance?



- Guidance only (no change) and does not have statutory effect
- However – same as the old code - non-compliance could be ‘used in evidence’ meaning it could impact upon the local authority successfully mounting a section 58 Highways Act 1980 defence.

Resourcing the change?



- As it is risk based a need to review your highways within your area?
- Resourcing this upfront.. But
- Would this approach save you money in the longer term?
- Will it make statutory defences to claims more robust (long term cost savings)

Frequency of inspections



If a risk matrix is used to assess and analyse the frequency at which roads are to be inspected:-

- Will it lead to a reduction in inspection frequency?
- Will it increase 'investigatory levels'?
- The Code provides detailed guidance on what should be applied when authorities carry out their risk based approach
- Note section 58(2) of the 1980 Act. Any review should include accident claims and accident reports data.
- Keep your evidence trail – record keeping essential! You will need to justify a change in inspection frequencies

Look over your boundaries....



- Recommendation 5 – you are encouraged to collaborate.
- Sharing policies and adopting similar approaches should minimise risk of challenge
- Claimant would have a more difficult task in challenging if a group of authorities have a similar view on risk



Where next?

- Don't panic! You have two years but
- Carefully assess where you are now
- Try and look for consistency with your neighbours
- Look at your Highways claims processes? review your evidence 'pathway'.
- Work with APSE – we want to share best practice and information

Thank you



Over to you!

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Contact details

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