

Health and Safety Executive news

Laboratory launch

The Health and Safety Laboratory have launched a new footwear rating scheme called 'GRIP.' GRIP provides free information so sites can make informed, evidence based decisions before purchasing resistance footwear.

The white paper 'Get a GRIP' explains how the scheme works and where you can get further information about which footwear has been rated.

For more information please follow the link http://www.hsl.gov.uk/news/news_items/grip-ratings-2015

Construction Dust

A newly-published industry survey [report](#) conducted jointly by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and the Construction Dust Partnership (CDP) has found that workers believe the construction industry needs to do more to face up to the

challenge that dust created on the job poses to employees' health. Over 500 UK construction workers a year die from lung cancer caused by silica, with construction dust also causing other serious lung diseases like asthma, silicosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.

For more information about dust and how to protect workers' health please follow the links below

[Raising the Bar 18 - Control of Dust](#)
[The Construction Dust Partnership](#)
[HSE – Managing construction health risks](#)

Current work in the Hub

Work continues on developing the next suite of documents:

- Occupational Health
- Excavation Protection
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Task Lighting
- Work at Height

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-raising-the-bar-initiative>

Lifesaver rules

To raise the profile of some of the key risks faced within the highways industry, a number of the newly revised raising the bar guidance documents feature a lifesaver rule. These are the fundamental statements that need to be followed going forward in particular areas.

Control of plant person interface (In B3 Plant Person Interface)

LIFESAVER

Where it is not possible to physically segregate persons from entering the risk zone, then an effective control system (e.g. proximity warning technology, mechanical restrictor) must be selected, implemented and established as a minimum around all moving plant.

Banning conductive setting out pins (in B9 Underground Service Avoidance)

LIFESAVER

CONDUCTIVE METAL SETTING OUT PINS ARE BANNED ON ALL HIGHWAYS AGENCY SITES

Conductive metal setting out pins are banned on Highways Agency sites. Alternative means of marking could be non conductive pins, free standing pins of carbon fibre, paint or marker flags. There are many products within the industry and these alternatives should be used.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

New Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) will come into force on 6 April 2015. The new regulations will have an impact on how Highways England operates to ensure legal compliance.

The changes have been outlined by the Health and Safety Executive in draft guidance which has been made available before the Regulations come into force to enable those who have duties under the Regulations to prepare in advance.

What will the changes mean for Highways England?

Highways England, as Client, will become more accountable under the new Regulations. The main changes are:

- The role of the CDM co-ordinator will be replaced by that of the principal designer who will be tasked to manage, monitor and coordinate the pre-construction phase of a project.
- An implicit duty will be placed on Highways England to assess the competence of those engaged to undertake works on its behalf.
- The CDM Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) will be removed and industry guidance developed for duty holders to facilitate legal compliance.

Contacts within each Directorate will facilitate the implementation of CDM 2015. Enquiries should be directed to your National Health and Safety Team business partner:
NDD/C&P: [Jeremy Bird](#)
NetServ: [Stephen Williams](#);
[Jeremy Bird](#)
MP : [Matthew Barry](#)
F&BS: [Caroline Penwill](#)

New drug driving law

Drug drive law is changing on 2 March 2015 to make it easier for the police to detect and prosecute drug drivers which will include the unauthorised use of several prescription drugs above specified levels as well

These new rules will mean it will be an offence to be over the specified limits for each drug whilst driving, as it is with drink driving. The new offence will work alongside the existing offence of driving whilst impaired through drink or drugs. Drugs covered by the new rules include cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and ketamine. The limits for illegal drugs will be extremely low – one smoke of cannabis will put you over the limit. Eight drugs associated with medical uses included in the new offence and set at a level where road safety risk arises are: clonazepam, diazepam, flunitrazepam, lorazepam, oxzepam, temazepam, methadone and morphine



The new law provided a medical defence if your ability to drive is not impaired and you are taking a medicine in accordance with the advice of a healthcare professional and/or the information in accompanying patient leaflet. The penalties for drug driving are the same as for drink driving - A minimum 12 month driving ban, criminal record and a fine of up to £5000 or up to 6 months in prison or both. Further information is available via <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/think/141210PartnerPack.pdf>

FORS Appoint AECOM

AECOM have been appointed by Transport for London (TfL) to a concession contract to operate, manage and grow the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). As concessionaires, AECOM will extend FORS outside London, rolling out the scheme on a national basis to meet demand from companies outside the capital, as well as from operators keen to gain accreditation for their national fleet.

The FORS accreditation scheme delivers safety, environmental and efficiency benefits for fleet operators by encouraging the adoption of best-practice industry standards, as well as issue-specific plans relating to air quality and road safety. FORS awards bronze, silver and gold accreditation to road fleet operators that provide evidence of enhanced safety, environmental and performance standards.

For more information please follow the [link](#)

Traffex 2015

Registration is now open for Traffex 2015. Traffex and Parkex returns to Hall 5 at the NEC Birmingham on the 21 - 23 April 2015, and is set to be the most important event for the international traffic management, road safety, parking, road maintenance and transport infrastructure industries.

There's nothing straight forward about the traffic industry.

New legislation, new materials, new technology, new products, new ideas - and new thinking.

Register here to attend [Traffex 2015 registration](#)



Cold comfort 2015

Registration is now open for Cold Comfort 2015. For over 20 years, Cold Comfort has been at the heart of the debate on Winter Maintenance.

The 24th Annual Winter Maintenance Conference is taking place on the 19 – 20 May. For details please follow the link <http://www.coldcomfort.surveyorevents.com/home.aspx>

This topical and timely conference always provides the opportunity to discuss the issues as well as giving attendees the chance to hear about the latest research, developments and technology within the sector. With a line up of topical, well-informed and often controversial industry figures, the programme promises to provide a lively and engaging discussion.



Elimination of crossing the carriageway

In January 2015, EM Highways, Connect Plus and Balfour Beatty/Mott MacDonald (the Highways Agency's asset support contractors in Areas 3, 5 and 10), reported that for the third month in a row they had all delivered the Highways Agency's maintenance programme for their area with zero carriageway crossings with other services providers also report having achieved zero crossings, which is great news and shows that it is possible.

For further details please see the latest edition of [RoWSaF News](#)

Phone camera

Norfolk County Council has joined forces with police and road safety group Think! to devise an electronic system which can detect if a mobile phone is being used by passing motorists. The system uses a signal detector to sense when a phone is in use which in turn triggers a nearby warning sign to flash. The sign has been used in the county since April 2014 and has moved between different test locations. Although fines are not yet being issued, the technology could easily be developed to turn it into speed camera-style automatic fine collector. Motorists caught using a phone behind the wheel currently face an on-the-spot fine of £100 and three penalty points.

This road side addition is seen as a step in the right direction by road safety campaigners following research by DfT that shows more than 500,000 motorists are still driving while using their mobile phones. Phone use, along with speeding, drink driving and seat belt offences, is still considered one of the major causes of fatal road accidents.



HGV Safety Rules having opposite effect

According to the British Aggregates Association (BAA), it is becoming increasingly clear that new regulations introduced to 'improve road safety' have had the opposite effect and people may be dying as a result.

Until recently, the minimum age for driving this size of truck was 21, but insurance restrictions and safety concerns normally meant that few drivers younger than 24 were actually allowed behind the wheel. However, the BAA says that due to a mass exodus of experienced drivers from the industry, transport managers are now having to use less-experienced, foreign and

agency drivers to keep the wheels turning.

With strict working hours and the introduction of the CPC scheme the BAA believe well over 20,000 lorry drivers decided to leave the industry in favour of other work meaning there is an acute shortage of drivers.

For more information please follow the [link](#)

Highways Agency alerts:

[HA138 - Use of coloured cones](#)

[HA139 - Operating from the hard shoulder](#)

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/our-road-network/safety/highways-agency-safety-alerts/>

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