



Construction and Maintenance Health, Safety and Wellbeing Briefing

June 2019



Update from the National Health and Safety Team



“Home safe and well” is the Highways England fresh new approach to health, safety and wellbeing improvement. Our vision of ‘No-one should be harmed when travelling or working on the strategic road network’ is summed up in this simple phrase; we want everyone who works with us and everyone who travels on our network to get home safe and well to the people they love and the things that they love doing. The approach is inclusive and aimed at customers, employees and supply chain with a focus on ownership and outcomes. This requires fresh thinking and innovative approaches towards health, safety and wellbeing across the industry.

We’ve come a long way since 2015, when our five-year safety plan was first published. The five-year plan provided a strong foundation from which to learn and improve as our industry adapted to new challenges. Home, safe and well takes this one step further; it is more than a set of actions, it is an approach marbled through everything we do.

Our company and directorate plans describe this change in more detail. These plans are owned by Highways England’s Executive Team and overseen by our Board. They are less prescriptive, more collaborative ways of working. They encourage each area of our business, our supply chain partners and every individual, to define and own their own commitment to getting everyone home safe and well.

We have taken a collaborative approach from the start, involving a range of people from inside and outside our organisation. It was important to do this to ensure that the way we go about managing health, safety and wellbeing in Highways England reflects the unique issues we face. Together, we looked at our performance since 2015 and identified six focus areas that are critical to how we will go about improving health, safety and wellbeing for our employees, supply chain and our customers.

These six focus areas are:-

- Effective leadership
- Capable people
- Clear expectations
- Engaged stakeholders
- A learning organisation
- Health, safety and wellbeing by design

These form the backbone of our plans for the next Roads Investment Strategy period (2020-2025). The activity is divided into that taken at corporate level and that driven more locally by our directorates.

Our collaboration extends beyond developing our approach. We recognise that our supply chain partners at all levels share our commitment and eagerness to learn. Our Supply Chain Safety Hub is one example of our joint approach. This has produced many innovations over the years and continues to develop and contribute to improving safety in the industry. Together with our supply chain, we have also introduced a safety culture maturity measurement tool that we hope will help us all share good practice and learn from each other.

We will measure our success against a set of ten aspirations that include performance relating to our customers, those who work on our roads and our internal safety arrangements and culture.

This approach is a big step forward and a shared responsibility for all of us; we must all take ownership and contribute towards stopping people being hurt, or worse. We must all intervene if we feel something is unsafe, give feedback on performance, and contribute to improvement together. We must all make our commitment to health, safety and wellbeing known - tell someone, and check in with them to hold us to account for what we need to do.

Update from the Supply Chain HUB meeting

Update from the Supply Chain HUB meeting

The HUB community had a busy meeting this month with several roundtable discussions held on current focus areas;

- CCTV Cables – Following a recent service strike, the investigation highlighted several root causes which are now being followed up by a sub group.
- Driver Behaviour – The group discussed the potential for a Raise the Bar document around improving current behaviours of our driving community. This document is very much in draft form however watch this space.
- Overturned Rollers – There has been a sudden increase in the number of incidents recorded with ride on rollers. Investigations are continuing however a safety alert has been issued with guidance when using this piece of plant.

Carnell visited the group to present the latest technology in safety controls for working around overhead cables. This will be featured in a future briefing.

Another one to watch is work that is being undertaken on the HUB website. We have listened to comments on improvements that can be made, and we are quietly working in the background to bring a website that is new, fresh, easier to navigate and bursting with health and safety information.

Finally, we published an update in the last briefing regarding the Highways England Passport and dates around compliance and implementation plans. Due to ongoing discussions with internal parties, these dates remain under review. Raise the Bar 23 (Inductions) has not yet been released however further updates will be provided when available.

If you have any comments or queries for members of the group, please send an email to

HighwaysSafetyHub@highwaysengland.co.uk

Spotlight on Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental health awareness week

happens every year on the second Monday in May.

In a world that is increasingly opening up to – and understanding those with – mental health issues, it's no surprise that **Mental Health Awareness Week** is now a firmer fixture on calendars around the UK and beyond. It's organised by the Mental Health Foundation, and focuses on a major issue each and every year. This years topic was Body Image

Why Does Body Image Matter

We are all intimately aware of the particular idiosyncrasies of our own body, its strengths and wonders and its limitations. No piece of technology that you will ever buy will match the complexity, sophistication and regenerative powers of your body.

And yet: For too many of us our bodies are sources of shame and distress. From an early age we are



bombarded with images that define what an “ideal body” should look like. Sometimes people have to face stigma or cruelty as friends and family have used how they look as a way to put us down for a cheap laugh. I think each of us have been guilty of that in the past. Each of us have also internalised a sense of SHOULD when it comes to our bodies and we have our own internal picture of what we think

we look like – a bronzed and toned Adonis maybe or a beautiful slim and elegant model but then sigh with disappointment when we catch a glimpse of ourselves in the mirror.

Therefore we should all be thankful that we have our health and accept that we can't change the way that we look but we can change the way that we think.

What did you do to support this years campaign?

Spotlight on New Technology



All engineering staff on the BMJV project have been trained and issued with Voltage Detector sticks and proving units. Before any Cat and Genny survey work is carried out, Proving of electrical safety is carried out.

The engineer will touch the white tip of the non contact voltage detector in several places on the item of street furniture that is intended to be clipped on to – if voltage is detected the tip of the Voltage Detector stick glows red and sounds.

Benefits

It is possible for the external casing of conductive roadside furniture such as equipment cabinets and lighting columns to become live in the event of an electrical fault. Also as the scheme progresses and more cabinets and columns become live, the probability of this occurring (albeit small) increases. There is also the legacy of old and redundant electrical installations along with any damage relating to RTC, theft or previous construction works.

Direct contact with an item of faulty street furniture or Clipping on to faulty Street furniture when carrying out a Cat and Genny survey could result in:

- Fatality
- Fibrillation
- Electrocution
- Burns

Further Details

www.kewtechcorp.com/products/electrical-testing/ktp1

www.fluke.com/en-gb/product/electrical-testing/basic-testers/fluke-1ac-ii-a2

Battery Powered Hydraulic Cutting Tool (105mm)



The M62 J10-12 BMJV scheme has recently introduced a new tool which has a number of benefits.

The battery powered hydraulic cutting tool cuts armoured copper and aluminium cables with 120 kN cutting force for an extremely wide cutting range (up to 105 mm dia).

The tool has a balanced centre of gravity for easy handling and a closed cutting head with bolt interlock, rotatable, flip top style.

- Eliminates HAVS.
- Battery operated - no fuel refills, no drip trays, no spills.
- Eliminates the need for manual ratchet cutters when cutting large cables.
- Eliminates the fatigue of using manual ratchet cutters on large cables.
- Saves time by having the ability to cut multiple large cores effortlessly.
- Improves safety by giving you the ability to cut large redundant cables at arm's length in one smooth single handed operation.
- Reduces the need to kneel in trial holes or over cables when cutting.
- Lightweight
- Increases production

Prior to purchasing the Cutting tool, hand held ratchet cutters were used; 1 x redundant 185mm armoured power cable in a trial hole (Depending on hole width) could take 20 mins to open up and cut using traditional hand held ratchet cutters. The same task using the hydraulic cutter takes 20 seconds.

Changes to the Health, safety and environment (HS&E) test

CITB are updating the Health, safety and environment test from the 26th June 2019.

Anyone taking the test after the 26th June 2019 should purchase the updated revision materials which will be available from 15 May 2019.

The HS&E test helps to raise the health, safety and environment standards for those working in the construction industry – giving employers the assurance that their workforce, and those they work alongside are well prepared to be safe on site.

The updates CITB are making on the 26th June 2019 are the result of two and half years of working with industry and experts in other fields to ensure that the HS&E test continues to be fair, valid and reliable. As the construction industry changes, the HS&E test is changing with it.

To find out more about the changes visit www.citb.co.uk/HSEtestdev or email HSEtestdev@citb.co.uk



CSCS to withdraw postal applications

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) has announced plans to withdraw postal applications.

CSCS currently provide a postal application service that is used. Over the last few weeks the CSCS team has been working with the industry to remove this largely paper based and inefficient service.

Gordon Jenkins, Director of Operations at CSCS said: "Postal applications do not deliver good customer service. They are a complex, time-consuming and inefficient way for our customers to make an application and this is why we have decided to withdraw the service."

From 30th April 2019 postal application forms will be removed from the CSCS website and from 30th June 2019 CSCS will stop processing applications received via the post.

Removal of the postal application service will also mark the end of cheques and postal orders as approved methods of payment. From 30th June 2019 all payments must be made via debit or credit cards. For more information on the removal of the postal application service, see our FAQs at

www.cscs.uk.com/paperlessfaq.

For further information on applying for a CSCS card please visit: www.cscs.uk.com/apply



Highways England Safety Alerts issued since the last briefing:-

Hei 086 Update to our Incident Reporting System Airsweb

Hei 085 Lighting column falling from lorry loader

Hei 084 Varioguard Foot Injury

Hei 083 Reinforced Concrete Wall

These and previous alerts are available through the following link:
<http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/alerts.html>