

# Safety Alert

## Attachments to Lighting Columns

21st June 2019

### Background information

We have recently experienced a number of lighting column failures associated with columns where unauthorised equipment has been attached. Investigations have discovered that the additional load from this equipment has not been considered by our mandatory design and check procedures.

Some attachments were also powered directly from the lighting column supply feed, which is not permitted under the separate electricity supply contracts Highways England has in place to cover our lighting and technology assets.

Highways England's design requirements for lighting columns are set-out in BS EN 40 and BD 94 (see clause 9.2), which allows for attachments of a specific size and weight. In accordance with our technical approval of highway structures standard (BD2), any equipment outside the original design limits requires a structural assessment to be carried-out and recorded. This ensures the revised load condition does not overload the column and put the road user at risk.

Attachments such as technology, CCTV cameras and solar panels may impose additional loading in excess of the original design and potentially overstress the column, making it unsafe.



### Recommendations

- Lighting columns have limited capacity to additional loading and must be competently designed following Technical Approval procedures.
- Existing lighting columns with attachments should be reviewed for adequacy and suspect installations reported to Highways England.
- Unauthorised electrical installations to attachments (fed from the lighting supply) should be identified and reported to Highways England.