

Safety Alert

Inspection of Recessed (Offset) Gullies

15 August 2019

Background information

A5 Fatal Incident

A fatal incident occurred on the A5 in April 2019. Standing water on the carriage caused by a blocked recessed (offset) gully was a contributory factor to the incident. The Coroner's report into the incident asked for our inspection requirements and processes to be reviewed.

The review of the inspection requirements and processes used by Highways England's Areas and Regions, and our supply chain, concluded they had a common risk based approach, and were understood by inspectors and applied consistently. Therefore, there are no proposals to change the requirements and processes.

The Asset Delivery inspection methodology is considered appropriate for our network and gives flexibility to allow increased inspection frequencies at locations where a specific risk has been identified.

Although no changes to the inspection requirements and processes are proposed, Area Teams are reminded of the importance of:

- Understanding the location of recessed gullies, particularly on All Purpose Trunk Roads;
- Using an appropriate methodology for recording defects and condition of recessed gullies, for example undertaking a walked inspection if the condition of the gully grating is not clear from a safety patrol carried out at the prevailing traffic speed or video survey;
- Communicating defects to Local Authorities as the body responsible for the sweeping and cleaning of All Purpose Trunk Roads.

