

# Safety Alert

## Inspection of Recessed (Offset) Gullies

30 August 2019

### Background information

Following a review of the Information Safety Alert issued on 15/08/2019 in relation to this incident the actions detailed in the bullet points below are now required.

#### A5 Fatal Incident

A fatal incident occurred on the A5 in August 2018. Standing water on the carriageway 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.

Although no changes to the inspection requirements are proposed **highway inspectors and those staff responsible for the management of highway inspections** shall ensure that:

- All relevant staff have access to and knowledge of the location of recessed gullies;



- Appropriate methodology for recording defects and condition of recessed gullies is being used, 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;
- Defects are communicated to Local Authorities as the body responsible for the sweeping and cleaning of All Purpose Trunk Roads.