

Introduction

This Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group was formed to give focus to improving safety performance across the Highways England road network through collaborative working across the supply chain where common risks exist and provide a unified voice of the sector.

The Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group's vision is to create a very clear shift in safety performance to ensure everyone who works with us and everyone who travels on the network gets home safe and well.

To find out more about the activity the Group is undertaking please go to the [Highways England Safety Hub](#) where we are working in collaboration to improve to achieve the vision.

Safety Moment

TM Incursions and Collisions with Works Vehicles

This month, James Haluch of Amey, highlighted a key area we as a group should put a spotlight on following a recent spate of 4 separate TM incursions and collisions with works vehicles on Area 10 M&R contract resulting in;

- Lost time injuries to operatives
- Damage to TM vehicles
- Fatalities to occupants of the errant vehicles in 3 out of 4 incidents



A **presentation** was put together by James to highlight some key learnings and promote an interesting discussion around;

- Challenging the reason for putting out closures – the maintenance of these as well as putting them out is putting people at risk.
- Using innovation to prevent incidents occurring –
 - Retrofitted emergency stop innovation to IPVs (see picture)
 - Use of WAZE to provide better information to road users

Trends and Priorities



Safe to the finish!

We were urged to all focus on finishing the year safely - there is an opportunity that if we all work together, we can deliver on our target for this year.

Current performance indicates;

The overall Supply Chain 12 month rolling RIDDOR AFR to October 2020 decreased from 0.07 to 0.06.

Target = 0.05

Action for Suppliers – Lets focus on having a safe end to the year and deliver our target for the supply chain

Are we at a tipping point with utilities strike  avoidance?

September and October data showing positive signs we may be starting to turn the tide on the poor performance around utilities strikes. A new Highways England safety alert has been issued around utilities strikes for reporting. [HEI Safety Alert – reporting a utility strike on AIRSweb](#)

Action for Suppliers – Don't get complacent – keep up the good work. Have you adopted the common standards?

Adopting the common standards: 

It was noted that when on site visits and inspections, we will be asking about adoption of the common standards.

Action for Suppliers - Has the message filtered down through your organisations to the operations on site and the benefits of what we are trying to achieve with the common standards been articulated and understood?

Highlights

Call for Case Studies from the Safety Hub

In support of launching our common standards, the Safety Hub have requested support to provide case studies and examples. The Hub is a great place for us all to share and collaborate on to improve the safety performance of our industry.

The Safety Hub are Raising the Bar – Thank you!

It was recognised in the Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group the efforts the members of the Safety Hub are putting in to get the Raising the Bar documents issued in line with the Common Intent.

A new working group formed - Ground Investigation – Richard Wilson, Highways England

Richard Wilson of Highways England came to the Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group to present the case for Ground Investigation be supported as a piece of work and ask for our sponsorship.

It has been recognised as a high potential risk activity due to the following:

- Historically resulting in high potential incidents or LTAs
- Potential exposure for HE as client and the Principal Contractor
- Area of concern going forward



It was recognised as a key issue and the Group agreed to support the formation of a working group with Richard Wilson as the lead.

Both John Dixon of Jacobs and Glennan Blackmore of Skanska volunteered some key skills to support this group from a design and construction perspective.

Action for Suppliers – Request for volunteers to join this working group to help shape the common standards for ground investigation.

The SCSLG seeks continuous improvement in shaping the agenda for 2021

As we enter the final quarter of the year, the group spent time completing a Plan, Do, Check, Act continuous improvement review of our progress.

Our focus for 2020 was as follows;

- Revise and implement a new communications strategy by collaborating with Safer Highways
- Leverage Supply Chain to implement the first common approach document and set precedent for uptake
- Increase Accountability and promote value of contributing to Task & Finish Groups
- Repurposing the Hub as a peer review for incident investigations and seeking out learning opportunities
- Create a holistic view of Traffic Management and incursions systems to minimise exposure time for road workers while optimising customer experience
- Proposals for Highways England Passport Working Group to be presented at January Executive Safety Committee
- Development of Mental Health and Wellbeing programme from best practice to enable greater uptake across the wider highways sector

Reflecting on this, the Group has achieved a lot this year and continues to strive to improve the safety performance to create a very clear shift in safety performance to ensure everyone who works with us and everyone who travels on the network gets home safe and well.

What have we achieved?



Common intent documents progressing well

- ✓ 1No. New working group identified – Ground Investigation
- ✓ 1No. working group launched – Supervision
- ✓ 4No Common Intent documents drafted for approval
- ✓ 5No. Common intent documents complete and into Safety Hub for RTB update.

Raised profile of SCSLG

Common intent documents published on Safer Highways and shared on the Safety Hub website.

SCSLG now focusing more on how they can show leadership within own businesses and supply chain to get wider engagement.

500% increase in hit rate for IPV publication on day 1 of release.

Monthly Bulletin approach taken to share within organisations.

Supported the HE Passport Scheme

Over 22,659 total recordholder workers in the system.

Nearly 600 companies registered on the system.

Over 9,000 workers with a Highways Common Induction. launched

Focused on Raising the Bar

Utility Strike Avoidance & IPV & Incursions being drafted by the safety hub to release updates or new RTB to provide practical guidance to deliver the Common Intent.

Focus now moving to embedding principles into Procurement process to set common intent from outset.

Has it worked?

Looking at our progress towards the strategic objectives for the group which are to;

- Halve the number of lost-time incidents by 2025
- Halve service strikes by 2025
- Halve vehicle incursions into road works by 2025
- Double our hazard and near miss reporting

We still have a lot to do to achieve our vision.

After an engaging and positive workshopping session with the group, look out for our plan for 2021 next month.

Adopting Common Standards

Overview – As a supplier community we have agreed to adopt a *common standard* to improve safety performance, following the principles of prevention and robustly applying the Hierarchy of Control, from the earliest stages of projects in development, and throughout construction, operation and maintenance, is at the heart of the refreshed approach that we are expecting all suppliers to follow.

The Common Standards - Our approach to defining expectations for methods to be used to improve safety performance across the supply chain includes:

- Common Intent - documents that set expectations of what we “must” all do. These provide clear direction and guiding principles in relation to application of the hierarchy of control that we expect to be considered in the processes and procedures followed by every organisation.
- Raising the bar – documents that provide “interpretation” on how to implement common intent across the whole asset lifecycle, including design, construction, operations and maintenance.

Common Intent and Raising the Bar Documents can all be found on the [Highways Safety Hub](#).

Status

Status

	SCSLG Member Lead	Common Intent Drafted	Common Intent Released	Raising the Bar Released
60MPH through roadworks	Non Member – Laura Baker (HE)	September 2020	Target November 2020	N/A

Passport Scheme	Teresa Moss (HE)	November 2020	Target December 2020	RtB 23 – Inductions - Target December 2020
Utilities Strike Avoidance	Lesley Waud (Atkins)	April 2020	May 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 9 – Released October 2020 Link to Safety Hub
IPV Strikes & TM Incursions	James Haluch (Amey)	May 2020	June 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 27 - Target November 2020
				New RtB 37 – IPV Usage – Target January 2021
				New RtB 38 – Mobile Carriageway Closure, Animated Flowchart decision tool & Automated TM vehicles – Q2 2021
Incident Investigation	Lesley Waud (Atkins)	June 2020	July 2020 Link to Safety Hub	N/A
Mental Health	Glennan Blackmore (Skanska)	September 2020	Target November 2020	New RtB 34 – Mental Health - Target December 2020
People & Plant Interface	Richard Stuart (Costain)	September 2020	Target November 2020	New RtB 35 – Loading and Unloading Vehicles – Target December 2020
				RtB 1 – Plant Standards – Target January 2021
				RtB 3 – PPI – Target Q2 2021
Safety by Design	John Dixon (Jacobs)	June 2020	August 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 26 - Target November 2020
Lost Loads	Non Member – Chris English (Balfour Beatty)	June 2020	August 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 36 – Lost Loads - Target December 2020
Supervision	Nick Holt (WJ)	Target January 2021	Target March 2021	RtB 29 – Supervision - Target April 2021
Ground Investigation	Richard Wilson (Highways England)	TBC	TBC	TBC

New Working Groups being considered

- Live Lane Working / Carriageway Crossing
- Excavations

Actions for Suppliers - We expect all suppliers working on the Highways England network to adopt the principles of the Common Intent documents in their own processes and procedures and to use/contribute to the Guidance contained in the Raising the Bar documents.