

Introduction

This Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group (SCSLG) 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.

Our 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](#).

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Safety Moment: Healthier Highways

This month we were joined by Steve Perkins, Steve Perkins associates, and Elaine Gazzini, Connect Plus, to talk about the “Healthier Highways” initiative focusing on workplace health.

The HSE reports that annually in GB some 13,000 people die due to work-related Health and Safety. Of those 99% are due to disease and 1% due to accidents. Specifically, in construction, 3500 workers die from occupational cancer each year. And each year there are another 5500 new cases. At any one time there are 81,000 construction workers with work-related ill-health, with highways being a significant proportion of the construction industry.

There are three key areas of health in the workplace.

- Occupational Health is the clinical arena that’s all about managing the health of workers as it is today.
- Wellbeing This is all about encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.
- Occupational Hygiene is all about protecting people from workplace health risks.





Following this thought provoking safety moment, the Group agreed to establish a working group for occupational health including health by design and revitalise the raising the bar standards pertaining to health.

Trends and Priorities

Key Stats



Major Projects - AFR **0.05** – 1No. RIDDORs reported in February 2021



Operations – AFR **0.04** – 0No. RIDDORs reported in February 2021



Utilities Strike Avoidance – February performance good and trend starting to turn in a positive direction.



New year new measure for safety – Highways England will be moving to Lost Time Incidents being the primary measure for the supply chain.

Utilities performance remains improved which demonstrates the adoption of common standards is making an impact.

Safety Hub

New standards imminent

The Safety Hub are working hard to publish the next set of new Raising the Bar standards in Plant and People Interface, IPV usage and Safety by Design.

Action for Suppliers – Adopt the common standards and check within our own organisations the status of embedment. Links to the new raising the bar guidance can be found in the status update below.

Highlights

An Interview with our new Member – Adam Green, CEO of FM Conway

The Group were delighted to welcome Adam Green as a new Member following his significant contribution to Health, Safety and Wellbeing in the sector.

Adam joined FM Conway after working closely with Michael Conway for many years and was drawn to the family ethos of FM Conway and the value it places on its people, as well as its unique self-delivery capability.

As part of the Infrastructure Client Group Adam supported such initiatives as Project 13 and more recently is a member of the new Highways Sector Council who have



been developing a new sector deal for highways and advising the Department for Transport on COVID-19 related issues.

The Group were keen to get Adams thoughts on why he wanted to join and what he will bring to drive a clear shift in safety performance.

What made you want to join the Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group?

The opportunity to help make a difference. I feel that we have been stuck in a rut for a while now and the SCSLG gives the supply chain an opportunity to deliver some real improvements.

What benefit do you see from being involved?

I have the opportunity to learn from other organisations and to help industry raise it's game. FM Conway have self-delivered at scale many years in the Local Government environment and we can hopefully help offer a different perspective to the group. We also have a diverse capability; from the manufacture of asphalt through to our Consultancy and Infratech operations. This will hopefully help us enrich discussions.

What would you say to other organisations that were thinking of supporting the Group?

Simple. Get involved.

What else do you think the SCSLG should focus on? / What's next for the SCSLG?

I am passionate about the application of engineering control to supplement our current reliance on behaviour. We should focus our world class engineering knowledge on making our people safe; behaviour should be a safety net.

New Working Group commissioned for the Prevention of Suicide

Nicola Tweedie, Highways England, came to the Group to request support in the formation of a working group for the prevention of suicide. More awareness and training for supporting people in suicidal crisis is required and the group agreed that the need was clear for a working group to be set up to focus our commitment to the prevention of suicide on our network. We will share an update from the working groups in a future bulletin.

Other new working groups being considered include:

- ➔ Excavations
- ➔ Archaeology
- ➔ Health by Design
- ➔ Occupational Health

Working Group Updates

We were provided updates on the progress of the Working Groups established for archaeology and ground investigation from our sponsor Richard Wilson, Highways England.

Vision for Archaeology: To educate and provide best practice standards for Archaeology. Focusing on the environment of the industry, which is labour intensive in all elements of weather, with rigorous manual handling activities.

- Update – first draft completed for the common intent document and the group is being enriched by support from industry bodies

Vision for Ground Investigation: Leading the development and implementation of a common standard for GI works, including other developments and standards from across the industry.

- Update – first draft completed for the common intent document and the group is maintaining momentum

Call for Volunteers - the SCSLG needs you!

In September 2020, Highways England commenced a programme of compliance checks on vehicles and drivers working on our schemes across the country. A broad range of issues were recorded, but there were clear trends with some issues being found repeatedly ranging from neglect, vehicle loading and licensing. Following the work on lost loads in 2020 and a presentation on the findings of this investigation in January 2021, the Group were keen to support and establish a new working group to address the concerns and create common standards for the supply chain to adopt in creating a clear shift in safety performance.



Phil Clifton of Balfour Beatty has been appointed as sponsor for this working group which has been named "Roadworthiness".

We are calling for volunteers to join this working group from across Highways England's supply chain to support the creation of these standards and to become ambassadors for improving vehicle safety.

Action for Suppliers – Volunteers wanted to support working groups who have a passion to improve safety in across our industry – new and existing. Please register interest [here](#) or contact Chris English directly at chris.english@balfourbeatty.com

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

	SCSLG Member Lead	Common Intent Drafted	Common Intent Released	Raising the Bar Released
Highest Safe Speed	Non Member – Laura Baker (HE)	September 2020	Feb 2021	N/A



			Link to Safety Hub	
Passport Scheme	Teresa Moss (HE)	November 2020	Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 23 – Inductions – Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
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 – Released October 2020 Link to Safety Hub
				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	December 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 34 – Mental Health – Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
People & Plant Interface	Richard Stuart (Costain)	September 2020	December 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 35 – Loading and Unloading Vehicles – Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
				RtB 1 – Plant Standards – Target January 2021
				RtB 3 – PPI released March 2021 Link to Safety Hub
Safety by Design	John Dixon (Jacobs)	June 2020	August 2020 Link to Safety Hub	RtB 26 - Target November 2020
Lost Loads	Non Member (Balfour Beatty)	June 2020	August 2020 Link to Safety Hub	New RtB 36 – Lost Loads - Released Jan 2021 Link to Safety Hub
Supervision	Nick Holt (WJ)	February 2021	Target March 2021	RtB 29 – Supervision - Target April 2021
Ground Investigation	Richard Wilson (HE)	Target April 2021	Target May 2021	Target June 2021
Roadworthiness	Phil Clifton (Balfour Beatty)	Target May 2021	Target June 2021	Target July 2021
Live lane working / Carriageway Crossing	David Shaw (HW Martin)	Target June 2021	Target July 2021	Target August 2021