



Tees Valley Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Group

Skidding Resistance Policy



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Document Information

Title	Tees Valley Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Group Skidding Resistance Policy
Description	Outlines the policy and procedures regarding the skidding resistance of highways adopted by the Tees Valley Highway Authorities (TVHA).
Author	Michael Kay and Gareth Hurndall
Checked: Name and Signature	Simon Houldsworth 
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Background

The Tees Valley Skidding Resistance Policy was introduced in 2007 and revised in 2025 and outlines the policy and procedures regarding the skidding resistance of highways adopted by the Tees Valley Highway Authorities (TVHA). The TVHA comprises of Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

The Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) was created in April 2016 with the purpose of driving economic growth and job creation in the area and is a partnership of the five Tees Valley authorities working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership, wider business community and other partners to make local decisions to support the growth of the local economy. Under the devolution deal with Government, it has taken on responsibilities previously held by Westminster and Whitehall, for transport, infrastructure, skills, business investment, housing and culture and tourism.

The Tees Valley Transport Advisory Group (TAG) report to TVCA on highway infrastructure asset management matters and in turn the Tees Valley Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Group (HIAMG) acts as an advisory group to TAG. The membership of HIAMG comprises of Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Officers from the five Tees Valley authorities plus the Middlesbrough Council Highways Laboratory Project Engineer.

Two of the functions of HIAMG included in their terms of reference are:

- to lead a coordinated approach and drive progress on a number of highway infrastructure policy areas including Skidding Resistance; and
- to provide effective collaboration on the implementation of the 2016 Code of Practice: Well-managed Highway Infrastructure.

Purpose and Aim of the Policy

In line with the transport vision of the TVCA, the aim of HIAMG is to assist in the provision of a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from the Tees Valley.

Skidding resistance is an important property relating to the safety of highway users, particularly in damp or wet conditions and over the course of a road's life the surface can lose some of its characteristics associated with grip.

An effective regime of inspection, survey and recording is the most crucial component of highway infrastructure maintenance and the 2016 Code recognises the requirement to systematically monitor the skid resistance of the road surface and to take a proactive approach so that skid resistance across a defined road network is maintained at an adequate level.

To aid in maintaining the safety of the network, HIAMG have developed a Skidding Resistance Policy for the Tees Valley authorities and this document reflects a fusion of elements taken from the existing Tees Valley Skidding Resistance Policy, the new 2016 Code of Practice, DMRB Pavement Inspection and Assessment standard CS 228 Skidding Resistance Revision 2, Jan 21 (formerly HD28/15) and guidance documents produced by the industry.

The Skidding Resistance Policy is based on the principle of the new Code of Practice recommendation that authorities should adopt a risk-based approach and a risk management regime for all aspects of highway maintenance policy.

The policy recognises that all elements of the skidding resistance survey regime should be applied systematically and consistently and that the efficiency, accuracy and quality of information and records maintained by the authorities will be crucial both to the effective management of the survey regime and to the defence of claims against authorities.

All information recorded may have consequential implications for safety and may therefore be relevant to legal proceedings and records may have to be made available for public inspection and reference.

Policy Details

In adopting this Skidding Resistance Policy, it is the Tees Valley authorities' intent to:

- Enable the public to travel safely and easily on their defined road networks.
- Reduce the number of killed or seriously injured due to accidents on their defined road networks.
- Enable the authorities to robustly defend against claims; and
- Ensure the authorities adhere to their duty of care under the Highways Act 1980.

To achieve this the authorities will:

- Formalise processes for monitoring skidding resistance across their defined road networks on an ongoing basis.
- Consult with adjoining authorities to ensure consistency of survey network and hierarchies at cross boundary locations.
- Use skidding resistance survey methods to identify deficient sites for further investigation.
- Use crash data on sites identified for further investigation to determine whether inadequate skidding resistance could be a factor.
- Recommend appropriate actions to negate skidding risks.
- Prioritise deficient sites for improvement works based on risk assessments.
- Ensure improvements to deficient sites are considered for incorporation into their annual highway maintenance works programmes; and
- Ensure that only suitably competent officers are assigned to undertake tasks throughout the skidding resistance procedure.

A supplementary HIAMG document, the Skidding Resistance Plan, has been produced to provide a step-by-step approach to carrying out skidding resistance surveys, analysing the results, identifying skid deficient sites and sets out a process for deciding on their subsequent treatment and how they will be prioritised.