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ROAD SAFETY AUDITS – SITE VISITS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This letter reintroduces the relaxations to site visits for road safety audits as a result of the reintroduction of a national lockdown. We will continually monitor the situation and we will reissue a letter when the relaxation to site visits are to be revoked.

Background

The Prime Minister has clarified the construction industry position. His policy is for construction activities to continue so long as safe procedures are followed. The Highways England Executive fully supports this approach.

GG119 Road Safety Audit provides the requirements for road safety audit for highway schemes on the trunk road and motorway network. Each stage requires a site visit by the audit team.

We have carefully considered the need for site visits as part of the Road Safety Audit process to ensure that the audit teams have the maximum possible protection aligned to the latest Government advice. This is designed to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19 so that we can continue to operate as safely as possible, whilst fully supporting our employees and the country.

Site Visits – RSA Stage 1 and 2

The site visit requirements for a Stage 1 and Stage 2 Road Safety Audit during the pandemic are relaxed. Teams may choose to use online mapping, BIM, or other similar tools to assist with the process.

There is a requirement for a fully compliant Stage 1 or 2 Road Safety Audit to be undertaken if the project has not moved beyond this stage after the pandemic is over.

Site Visits – RSA Stage 3

Daytime and darkness site visits remain a requirement for Stage 3 Road Safety Audit but the current social distancing guidance issued by www.gov.uk must be followed therefore site visits do not have to be carried out with all team members together. Teams may choose to arrange for the project to be videoed, or travel to site separately to observe. These are just some examples of how the Stage 3 audit can still be successfully completed.

We are also relaxing the number of members of the team who need to attend site to two.

Traffic flows are likely to be much lower than normal, so we accept that peak traffic flows will not be observed.

Key workers

Any Road Safety Auditors undertaking site visits will be given key worker status.

Highways England will provide a letter confirming that your company has key workers that are supporting the strategic road network. This will need to be supplemented by a letter from each employer and the employee will need to have photographic proof of identity (e.g.) staff pass, driving licence, passport etc. The letter will be able to be used to support attendance at school as well as confirming the need to travel.


Timing

These arrangements will be kept under constant review based on the latest government advice and a letter will be issued when the relaxations are to be revoked.

Contact details

Any questions relating to this letter please contact:

RoadSafetyAudit@highwaysengland.co.uk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Wilson
Chief Highway Engineer