



From mountain to sea

OP34

Road Inspection Policy

August 2019



Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984	3
1.2	Code of Practice	3
1.3	The Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS)	3
2	Policy statement	3
3	Scope	4
4	Implementation & compliance	4

1 Introduction

1.1 The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 1, states that "...a local roads authority shall manage and maintain all such roads in their area as are for the time being entered in a list (in this Act referred to as their "list of public roads") prepared and kept by them under this section."

1.2 Code of Practice

The 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure' Code of Practice is designed to promote national adoption of an integrated asset management approach to highway infrastructure based on the establishment of local levels of service through risk-based assessment.

1.3 The Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS)

SCOTS developed their guidance document for Road Safety Inspections and Defect Categorisation in partnership with Scottish Roads Authorities to achieve a common standard for their network based on The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 1 and the Well-managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice.

The Scottish Authorities recognise that Councils are currently faced with delivering services within an environment of increasing fiscal austerity and are aware of the benefits that can be achieved by adopting a common approach and minimum standards.

This consistent approach will also assist Councils when defending any public liability claims that may be intimated against them.

2 Policy Statement

Aberdeenshire Council recognises the importance of achieving consistency in road inspections of their public roads to a consistent standard across the areas of Aberdeenshire. It furthermore seeks to achieve best value in the management and maintenance of road networks through the use of asset-management principles using a risk based approach.

We will:

- **Carry out road inspections and repairs which comply with the guidance given in Aberdeenshire Council's "Road Inspection Operational Procedure"**
 - **Inspect road carriageways and footways in accordance with Aberdeenshire Council's "Road Inspection Operational Procedure" to facilitate prioritisation of carriageways and footways for inclusion to the Road Maintenance Programme.**
 - **Maintain a current inventory of road carriageways and footways to be maintained**
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3 Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- Aberdeenshire's adopted road network
- Duty of Care to record and notify third party defects
- Duty of Care to record and notify statutory undertakers defects

4 Implementation & Compliance

Aberdeenshire Council's "Road Inspection Operational Procedure" contains detailed guidance on carrying out road safety inspections and for the records maintained in the inventory.

The Roads Quality and Resource Manager will be responsible for updating the Operational Procedure to reflect changes in legislation, advances in material technology and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed.

Local Roads and Landscape Managers shall be responsible for compliance within their areas, ensuring that guidance in the procedure is complied with, inspections are undertaken and the inventory is maintained.
