

Course pre-read information

Overview:

Highway maintenance continues to be a problematic issue for local highway authorities, which are increasingly faced with the difficulty of balancing limited budgets against the long-term consequences of lower levels of maintenance, one of which could be an increase in the number of civil claims against the authority for compensation for injuries and damage resulting from highway defects.

In order to provide an effective service, and to successfully defend and deter sometimes speculative or fraudulent compensation claims, the authority needs to have, and be able to demonstrate, a robust highway inspection policy and be able to provide evidence of the credibility and competency of its highway safety inspectors.

Well-managed Highway Infrastructure, the Code of Practice published by UK Roads Liaison Group in October 2016, recommends that highway inspectors are trained, qualified and competent in the identification and assessment of defects. This is re-emphasised in Well Managed Highway Liability Risk, published by the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) in March 2017, which highlights the importance of training in the case of inspections and surveys, where the quality and treatment of data and decision making could have significant legal and financial consequences.

This four-day modular course is intended for both newly appointed and existing local authority highway inspectors. It provides the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill the role of highway inspector and provides an opportunity for delegates to demonstrate their competency.

Aims and Objectives:

This course is designed to fulfill the initial training requirements of local authority highway inspectors and to satisfy the requirements of the IHE certification scheme, which will allow successful delegates to be entered on the National Register of Highway Inspectors.

Topics Covered:

The four-day course follows the IHE approved syllabus and is delivered in seven distinct taught modules, each concluded by a short written assessment. In addition, delegates' ability to identify, evaluate and report highway defects will be assessed in a practical scenario. The seven core modules are as follows:

Module 1 - Highway Law

- Introduction to the training programme, methods of assessment, certification and registration
- Legal powers and duties of highway authorities
- Highways Act powers and enforcement
- NRSWA powers and enforcement
- An overview of the relevant Codes of Practice, including 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure' and 'Highway Risk and Liability Claims'

Module 2 - Inspection Policies and Procedures

- Highway maintenance context
- Maintenance priorities and road hierarchies
- Inspection frequency
- Inspection methods
- Investigation levels
- Risk assessment
- Response criteria
- Risk registers

Module 3 - Material Recognition & Measurement

- Highway construction
- Material identification
- Other highway elements
- Measuring tools and techniques
- Measurement and estimation workshop

Module 4 - Defect & Hazard Recognition

- Causes of structural defects
- Types of structural defect
- Defect repair techniques
- Non-structural defects
- 3rd party defects / s.81 NRSWA

Module 5 - Health & Safety / Risk assessment

- Understanding accidents

- Legal duties of employers and employees (Health and Safety at Work Act)
- The risk assessment process
- Highway risk control measures
- Safe working practices

Module 6 - Safety at Street Works and Roadworks

- Safety at Street Works and Road Works: a Code of Practice (October 2013)
- Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual
- Risk factors and control measures
- PPE
- Vehicle conspicuity
- Temporary signs
- Site specification
- Methods of traffic control
- Vulnerable road users

Module 7 - On-site Inspection Assessment

Module 8 - Claims Investigation

- Highway claims context
- The legal process
- Fatal road traffic accident scenario
- Potential liability of the highway authority
- Application of the special defence
- Statutory procedural requirements

Much of the course content is based on the recommendations of the code of practice, Well-managed Highway Infrastructure (2016). Delegates are encouraged to read those sections relating to Highway Inspection prior to the course. The document can be accessed online at <http://www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org/en/codes/index.cfm>. Local policies and procedures, if provided, will also be covered in the training programme.

Certification:

The highway inspectors' course complies fully with the national standards for highway inspectors' training. The course is delivered by experienced professionals in the field of highway safety and highway maintenance and is approved by the IHE Highway Inspectors Board.

Delegates completing this course and passing all the assessments will receive a Certificate of Training, accredited by Lantra Awards.

Successful completion of the course will allow delegates to register on the IHE National Register of Highway Inspectors and claim credit for progression towards an Engineering Technician qualification.