

Appendix D: Additional information on safety audits

Section SA1: Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix provides some general information on safety audits and our requirements in respect of new works constructed on the existing highway (under Section 278 of the Highways Act or, in some cases, works under Section 38 of the Highways Act).

Section SA2: What are safety audits?

General

- 1.2 The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, GG 119 “Road Safety Audits” is the national standard for safety audits. The purpose of road safety audits is to identify aspects of engineering interventions and schemes that could give rise to road safety problems and to recommend modifications to the designs in order to mitigate these problems and improve road safety.
- 1.3 Road safety audits are undertaken by an Audit Team with experience of collision data analysis, road safety engineering and a reasonable understanding of the principles of highway design. The Audit Team **MUST** be independent of the Design Team who produce the scheme to be audited.
- 1.4 Safety Audits are therefore checks to ensure that a road is designed and operates as safely as is possible in order to keep accident numbers to a minimum. They should only consider road safety matters and are not a technical check of compliance with design standards or requirements.

Pre-works construction (Stage 1 and 2 audits)

- 1.5 **Stage 1 audits:** These should be carried out at the preliminary design stage when you submit a planning application. This is the last occasion that the basic design of the works can be significantly changed and any land requirements finalised. We will normally require these audits to be carried out where new junctions, improvements to existing junctions or other highway improvements are required as a result of new development.

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- 1.6 **Stage 2 audits:** These should be carried out when you have completed the proposed works' detailed design. This audit is concerned with the more detailed aspects, for example the provision of signs, road markings and street lighting.
- 1.7 Where we require Stage 1 and Stage 2 safety audits of your proposed works (see Section SA3), we will not issue technical approval for your works until the audits have been completed to our satisfaction and we are satisfied with any changes we have asked you to make. Construction cannot take place without technical approval.

Post-works construction (Stage 3 and 4 audits)

- 1.8 **Stage 3 audits:** These should be carried out only when the works have been substantially completed and preferably before the works are open to road users. This audit should look at the works from all road users' viewpoints and be carried out both in daylight and during the hours of darkness.
- 1.9 Where we require a Stage 3 safety audit of your works (see Section SA3), we will not issue you with a provisional certificate for your works until the audit has been completed to our satisfaction and we are satisfied with any changes that we have asked you to make.
- 1.10 **Stage 4 audits:** These should look at how the works are operating and examine the accident record. They should normally be carried out at 12 months and 36 months after the works opened. Based on the accident record and observations made during any site visits, these audits should identify any road safety problems and recommend remedial measures.
- 1.11 Where we require a Stage 4 safety audit of your works (see Section SA3), we will decide whether we can issue the final certificate once the 12-month report has been completed.

Note: We are able to provide you with personal injury accident details (for a fee).

Section SA3: When will we require safety audits?

- 1.12 **Works under Section 38 agreements:** We will not normally require safety audits unless your development layout contains features which are not explicitly covered by this design guidance or your layout is not covered in any other way by this document.
- 1.13 **Works under Section 278 agreements:** We will require Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 audits for all works. We will normally require a Stage 1 safety audit to be carried out when you submit a planning application.

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Section SA4: What are you responsible for?

- 1.14 When you enter into either a Section 278 agreement or Section 38 agreement, you, the developer, will be required to indemnify (protect us from legal responsibility) against any claims arising from your works.
- 1.15 You are also responsible for:
- commissioning and paying for all safety audits;
 - ensuring that the audits are carried out by an accredited safety audit team that is independent from the works' designers;
 - submitting the audits to us, along with the designers' response (we will not consider the audit report until we have received the designers' response); and
 - ensuring any audit recommendations that we require to be implemented are completed to our satisfaction.
- 1.16 You must also comply with all aspects of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and indemnify us (protect us from legal responsibility) against all claims, liabilities and actions if you fail to do so.