

Local Authority skid strategies – making them work

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This paper will consider the approach adopted in the UK by local authorities in developing skid strategies, examples of good practice and highlight some of the pitfalls experienced by a variety of local authorities. As New Zealand and other countries start to implement testing regimes on roads other than the strategic network it outlines some of the lessons learnt from local authorities in the UK.

In the UK local authorities have a duty to maintain the highway, and failure to do so can result in criminal or civil litigation. A robust skid strategy backed up by working procedures are essential tools to improve safety on the network and provide a robust defence against potential claims. The published standards (HD28) was developed for the strategic road network and presents a number of difficulties when translated to local road networks due to fundamental differences in the network, and delivery arrangements . Navigating these difficulties is of fundamental importance for local authority engineers in implementing a risk based asset management strategy. From experience gained in local government, and more recently working with a variety of UK local authorities the author will consider some common failings in implementing skid strategies, developing best practice, reporting requirements and suggest how lessons learnt in the UK could be applied in New Zealand and other countries. He will also consider the skills required to apply a skid strategy and how they can be developed.