

**ESSENTIAL
STANDARDS
no.14**

Safety in Vehicle Movements



KEY MESSAGES

- There must be a risk assessment for all activities involving vehicle movements.
- Anyone operating vehicles must be trained in the hazards and relevant control measures specific to the type of vehicle.
- Always follow site-specific instructions and comply with road signs and markings, such as speed limits and give way lines.
- Watch out for pedestrians.
- Be considerate of other road users.
- Follow safe driving and work practices.

1. Introduction

Vehicle movement is one of the biggest areas where Thames Water has to work with contractors and suppliers. Every year people are seriously injured as a result of poor management of site traffic.

Site traffic can include tankers, lorries, excavators, dumpers, cars and vans. These vehicles have to come onto our sites for a number of reasons:

- To transport site-based staff
- To discharge effluent from a tanker
- For construction vehicles to access their site or travel from one area of the site to another
- For visiting Thames Water staff and to take samples
- For deliveries
- To transport maintenance contractors

In addition to vehicles, there is also pedestrian traffic on Thames Water sites.



2. Risk Assessment for Ensuring Safety in Vehicle Movements

A suitable risk assessment should include reference to the following:

Design and Layout of Access Routes

Most Thames Water sites have traffic management plans in place. These ensure that:



Pedestrians and moving vehicles are separated wherever possible



Reversing operations are properly managed



Vehicle routes are suitable for the type and volume of traffic



Site rules are established and clearly marked (signs and road markings)

You must comply with any site-specific instructions and guidance provided at the site entrance. If there is no site-specific guidance available, for example at unmanned sites, you should follow the rules for public roads, follow all site signs and markings and look out for pedestrians.

Vehicle Suitability

When you plan for site traffic you must ensure that vehicles are suitable for the activity being carried out. When selecting a suitable vehicle, you must consider:



The size of the roads on site and the space available for manoeuvring



Safety devices such as mirrors, rollover protection, warning lights and alarms



Any obstructions or restrictions such as narrow bridges, overhead pipes and weight limits



Whether vehicles are in good condition and well maintained. Make a maintenance log available to check



Ground conditions such as slopes

Refer to *ES 21 large commercial vehicles on public highways and construction sites*

3. Operating Vehicles

Ensure that everyone who operates a vehicle has been provided with information and instructions on its safe use. This should include at least the following instructions:



Do not operate a vehicle unless you are trained and competent to do so



Park in safe and secure locations and consider other road users



Do not operate a vehicle if you are impaired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol



Obey site PPE rules if you need to leave the vehicle, for example you may need to wear a hard-hat during loading and unloading



Avoid distractions like adjusting the radio, eating or drinking



Keep your vehicle tidy and free from items that could get in the way of the controls of the vehicle



Don't leave vehicles unlocked and unattended



Do not allow passengers to ride on the vehicle unless there is safe seating



Report any defects with the vehicle so that they can be fixed



Carry out loading and unloading operations away from passing traffic and other hazards



Only carry out reversing operations in coned off areas or with the aid of a banksman



Do not use mobile phones



Ensure driver and passengers wear seatbelts when using vehicles, including when manoeuvring

If you need to operate a vehicle on a Thames Water site you must get the appropriate authorisation to enter and inform your Thames Water contact of your arrival.