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Updating HD 19/15

Road Safety Audit

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Key Messages

Why is HD 19/15 being updated again?

Highways England is committed to refreshing the DMRB in accordance with the Manual for the Development of Documents (MDD) during the first Roads Period so that it reflects the needs of its users.

A Protocol Agreement requires that the DMRB ‘must seek to reduce the number of prescriptive standards and increase the number of performance standards in line with industry best practice, and thereby reduce the number of departures from standard.’

Key Messages

What is changing?

From the perspective of the practicing Road Safety Auditor, not much is changing at all.

It ain't broke, so we don't need to fix it...

...but we can make it better...

...and shorter and sweeter!



Approach to the update

Clause by clause review of HD 19/15 for technical relevance and MDD drafting rules.

Internal peer review and wider Technical Project Board consultation and approval.

New MDD rules necessitated some technical changes, and some efficiencies in the process were also identified.

Key Messages

MDD provides the drafting rules for new Requirement and Advice Documents (RADs), which should succinctly communicate requirements and associated advice to the supplier.

HD 19 poses a challenge in that it describes a process and not design requirements.

The current HD 19 contains very few clear requirements and a large amount of advice about the application of the RSA process. Much of the advice is not clearly related to specific requirements or aimed at designers, and is therefore not aligned with MDD.

Main Changes - overview

A new structure based on 'audiences'

Roles and responsibilities – moving to an organisational level rather than individuals

Exemption Note

Application of Combined Stage 1 & 2 RSA restricted to specific circumstances

Main Changes - overview

New requirement for RSA of Temporary Traffic Management

Removal of the requirement to submit a draft report

Removal of the Exceptions Report process, instead combining this with the RSA Response Report

Removal of the 36 month Stage 4 RSA

Updates to the Appendices including a new Exemption Note template.

Main Changes - details

Restrictions on the universal application of combined Stage 1&2 RSAs:

Evidence from the RSA database shows that a very high number of Combined Stage 1&2 RSAs were submitted, but a low number of Stage 1 RSAs.

Where preliminary design is not undertaken, a stage 1 RSA may be combined with a Stage 2 RSA at the detailed design stage in these circumstances.

Main Changes - details

Temporary Traffic Management

RSA is required for TTM only where:

The TTM is in place to create a change to the existing highway layout that is not associated with construction works i.e. to manage a long-term incident such as a landslip or collapse of a sewer.

This TTM is in place for 6 months or longer.

Significant TTM schemes for roadworks associated with the construction of a highway scheme will be managed by Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual, not RSA.

Main Changes - details

Draft and final RSA reports

Removal of the requirement for the draft RSA report submission in order to streamline the process.

This is aligned with a wider DMRB requirement of supplier competency, benefits to scheme delivery through a shorter RSA process and the avoidance of draft RSA reports becoming publicly available.

Main Changes - details

Changes to the Exceptions Report process and RSA Response Report

Deletion of existing standalone Exceptions Report.

Requirement for design organisations and the Overseeing Organisation to close out problems raised in the RSA report.

Design organisation and Overseeing Organisation work collaboratively to find a solution and agreed action for each problem raised.

Main Changes - details

Example of new RSA Decision Log

RSA problem	RSA recommendation	Design organisation response	Overseeing Organisation response	Agreed RSA action
Insert the original problem from the RSA report	Insert the original recommendation from the RSA report	Insert the design organisation's response	Insert the Overseeing Organisation's response	Insert the design organisation's and the Overseeing Organisation's agreed action to the problem

Main Changes - details

Stage 4 RSAs

The EU Directive requires a Stage 4 RSA to be completed at 'early operation.'

Although there are beneficial aspects of each of the current 12-month and 36-month Stage 4 RSAs these elements have been combined into one single Stage 4 RSA.

Main Changes - details

Appendices

Exemption Note template

Checklists combined into one table

Long illustrative RSA reports replaced with streamlined templates including an example RSA response table in the RSA Response Report

Tabulated outline training curriculum and routes to obtaining a Certificate of Competency.

Other changes

RSA Team competency

Subtle changes to make it clearer what is expected of an RSA team in terms of competency.

Road design experience



Questions