

Newsletter 14 November 2009

SCANNER User Guide and Specification

The revised SCANNER User Guide and Specification (2009) has been published in five volumes on the PCIS website at

<http://www.pcis.org.uk/index.php?p=6/8/0/list,0,58>.

We would welcome comments on any part of the SCANNER User Guide and Specification sent to scanner@trl.co.uk.

It replaces the revised SCANNER specification first published in March 2006, and updates the draft SCANNER specification first published in February 2007. Previous versions of the Specification are in the PCIS archive at <http://www.pcis.org.uk/index.php?p=6/8/0/list,0,78>.

UKPMS User Guide (Visual Survey Manual)

Volume 2 of the UKPMS User Guide (the part that replaced the former Visual Survey Manual) has been updated and the new chapters can be found on the PCIS website at <http://www.pcis.org.uk/index.php?p=6/8/0/list,0,61>.

The material has been re-arranged into nine chapters covering:

1. Introduction and overview (with abbreviations and acknowledgements)
2. Inspector accreditation
3. Data Capture Device Software and Accreditation
4. Quality Assurance and Audit
5. Guidelines and recommendations for inventory data collection
6. How UKPMS provides a convention to locate items across the carriageway using cross sectional position
7. UKPMS Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI)
8. UKPMS Detailed Visual Inspection (DVI)
9. UKPMS Footway Network Survey (FNS)

We would welcome comments on any part of the UKPMS User Manual sent to ukpms@trl.co.uk

Transport Infrastructure Assets Code - consultation

In Newsletter 9 (May 2009) Robert Biggs (Derbyshire), the chairman of the **H**ighways **A**sset **M**anagement **F**inancial **I**nformation **G**roup (HAMFIG), wrote about the Group's goals and activities for highways asset management and financial information and the link with PCIS. He has contributed the following information:

On 20th October 2009 CIPFA published the draft Transport Infrastructure Assets Code, which deals largely with Highway Asset Management. It is open for consultation until **14th December 2009**.

All authorities are being encouraged to comment on the draft on both engineering and financial aspects. CIPFA would welcome comments on any aspect of the Code, but has provided a set of 10 questions to guide respondents. An electronic reply form is also available to download. All responses should be sent to CIPFA, ideally by e-mail to gail.main@cipfa.org.uk.

The draft Code, the supporting material, the 10 questions and the electronic response form are available from:

<http://www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/infrastructure/consultation.cfm>

Please consult with your financial colleagues and provide feedback to CIPFA by the **14th December 2009**.

Following consultation, the final version of the Code will be issued in the early part of 2010.

The Code will be used for Whole of Government Accounts reporting of highway assets in England, Scotland and Wales. The plan is to complete the transition from historic cost based reporting for the financial year 2012/13 after a full dry run for 2011/12. Authorities will need to plan for this, and auditors will be taking an interest in progress with implementation.

The main driver for the Code is to help transport/highway authorities to develop robust consistent information to support effective management of the assets, to understand the true costs of holding and maintaining them, and to deliver improved long term value for money and service improvements to users.

As part of the overall process UKPMS is being extended to support the Code. The 2009 Annual Health Check will test that UKPMS systems are able to provide financial information to support asset management in keeping with the principles set out in the new Code.

A meeting between HAMFIG members and the UKPMS Developers took place in early October 2009 to explain the wider principles which are being introduced to accommodate the requirements of Highways Asset Management.

Specifically the UKPMS 2009 Annual Health Check includes tests that ensure:

- Inventory data can be exported to facilitate the calculation of the Gross Replacement Cost [GRC].
- Depreciation calculations can be carried out in accordance with the interim approach for Depreciated Replacement Cost [DRC] described in the Code for bituminous carriageways.

Rule Set 9.01 has been set up to support these new functions and a new weighting set (WSCCIv0102) has been released.

UKPMS Developers should complete the 2009 Annual Health Check by 31st December 2009 and will then start to release the updated systems to their users.

As an adjunct to the draft Code authorities will find some example spreadsheets to assist with the calculation of GRC etc. It is intended that some default values within these spreadsheets will be supplied on a National and/or Regional basis. However, it is intended that in the future much of the information will be supplied by the individual authority itself, although GRC cost rates for the major items – carriageways, footways and structures – will continue to be provided centrally.

The Code also contains information relating to other aspects of the highway including structures, Street Lighting and ITS equipment.

Additional background information can be found on the HAMFIG web-site which is managed by Leicestershire at <http://www.leics.gov.uk/amp>

Unclassified Road Condition Data

An article by Matthew Lugg (chair of the UK Roads Board) and Chris Capps (chair of the PCMG) was published in the Surveyor magazine (23rd October 2009) explaining why local authorities in England will need to continue to collect consistent carriageway condition data on unclassified roads for the foreseeable future. In summary:

- To know the condition of the asset for asset management purposes, including financial reporting;
- A consistent approach for national reporting and
- To obtain the benefits from continuity of condition monitoring for benchmarking and local performance monitoring.

Pavement Condition Information Systems

(Including support for UKPMS, Visual Surveys & SCANNER)

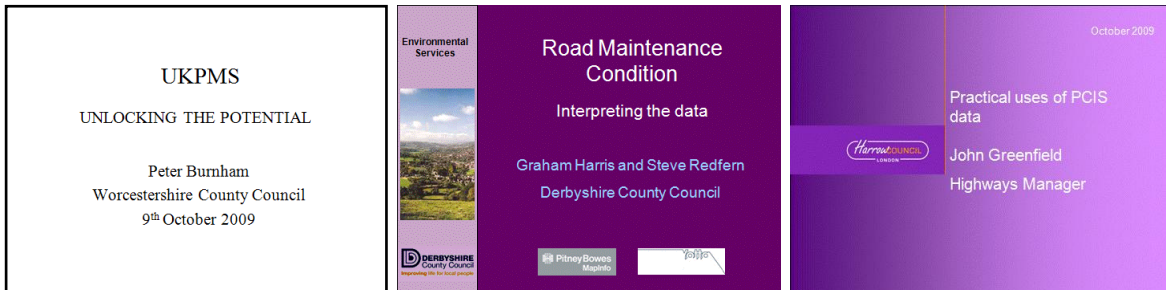


Getting the most from PCIS

The final PCIS regional seminar was held in London on 9th October. It followed a similar format to the three in Newcastle, Manchester and Bristol, described in Newsletter 13.

The presentations from all the seminars are now all available (as PDF files) on the PCIS website at <http://www.pcis.org.uk/index.php?p=6/8/0/list,0,73>

The local authority presentations in London were by Pete Burnham (Worcestershire), Graham Harris and Steve Redfern (Derbyshire) and John Greenfield (Harrow).



Reporting Road Condition

The Department for Transport set up two new "task and finish" working groups, the Road Condition Publication Group (RCPG) and the Unclassified Road Condition Data Group (URCDG), as reported in Newsletter 12 (August). The groups met for the third time on 13th October in London.

Road Condition Publication Group (RCPG)



The RCPG considered:

- the potential data items (including skid data and questionnaire);
- different approaches to calculating the index;
- the definitions of urban and rural (by population size);



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- the structure of the group's report
- the proposed technical guidance document, and
- the timetable for delivery.

The RCPG reported progress at the UK Roads Board on 30th October, setting out the proposed structure for the 2008 road condition publication. It will be a National Statistics publication, so the role of the RCPG and the UK Roads Board is to advise, and the final decisions must be taken by DfT statisticians.

The DfT has written to local authorities in England, inviting them to complete two short questionnaires on

- Skidding Resistance and
- Carriageway Work carried out.

This information will be an essential element in the road condition publication and all authorities should respond to the request for information.

Unclassified Road Condition Data Group (URCDG)

The URCDG considered

- The future options for unclassified road surveys
- Feedback from discussion at the Roads Board Advisory Group on 30th September
- Conclusions and way forward
- Publicising the need to continue regular surveys of carriageway condition on unclassified roads
- Final report to the UK Roads Board and
- Timetable.

The URCDG reported to the UK Roads Board on 30th October recommending that for the next two years (2009/10 and 2010/11):

- Pending the outcome of further research to develop a clear approach for reporting the condition of unclassified roads in the longer term, local authorities should continue to monitor the condition of unclassified roads using Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI), unless already using DVI or SCANNER.
- The CSS should continue to collect the results from CVI and DVI surveys from local authorities. These results should be calculated by local authorities following the methodology previously used for BVPI 224b. The results should be published at a national and regional level in the DfT's National Statistics publication 'Road Conditions in England'.



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For future years (2011/12 and onwards):

- Local authorities should monitor condition using a combination of survey types for different road types. These survey types should deliver consistent, comparable data between local authorities at a reasonable cost.
- The PCMG be tasked to investigate the different survey types with a view to establishing the appropriate surveys to be recommended for different types of unclassified roads by autumn 2010.
- The PCMG be tasked to develop a methodology to compare, at a LA level, the different measurements of road condition produced by the surveys methods selected as part of R4 by spring 2011, and this development should take into account similar work being carried out for the introduction of Asset Management.
- The data on the condition of unclassified roads be collated at a national level and published in DfT's National Statistics publication 'Road Conditions in England'.

Contact details

You are welcome to pass a copy of this newsletter on to anyone else who may be interested in the subject.

If you wish to be added to (or removed from) the circulation list please email your details to us at newsletter@ukpms.com.

We welcome your comments and questions at:	newsletter@ukpms.com
The PCIS website is at:	http://www.pcis.org.uk
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