

## **Assessing the impacts of a skid resistance policy in Scotland**

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This paper will report on the evaluation of the transport skid policy from a cost/ benefit perspective, operational performance and the forecasting of future benefits from intervention.

Transport Scotland developed Guidance on implementing their skid strategy in 2009, which largely addressed prioritisation and investigation protocols. Investigations are carried out by Operating Companies (OC) and the objective was to achieve some consistency of approach between the 4 units.

A review was undertaken in 2015 to consider the impacts of the updated guidance which considered:

- Accident history
- The Operating Company procedures
- Potential benefits

From 2000 to 2013 there has been 33% reduction in the number of wet accidents on the Transport Scotland network; however, the trend reflects longer term weather patterns as well as various TS works programme.

Further analysis was undertaken to try and identify the contribution the skid policy made.

The Operating Companies are responsible for implementing the policy. Through an annual review programme it is known that the OC's have different methodologies. An assessment of the recommendations arising from the 2013 investigations was undertaken which provided valuable insight into the approach adopted by the OC's.

This has been supplemented by a more detailed desk top review completed in 2016.

The assessment of benefits was complicated by the lack of transparency about true costs of implementing the skid policy, but an assessment of the potential benefits by site category definition that are used in prioritising sites for investigation.

The findings from the review have been used in the 2016 update to the Transport Scotland Skid Policy Guidance and defining functions under the new generation of OC contracts.