

Highways Agency Specification 2013-14 – Technical Note

Field	Notes
Short Title	Assess the Risks that Climatic Changes pose and Develop Appropriate Responses to Reduce Risks.
Performance Specification Reference	Output 11 – PS 5.2
Requirement / Output Details	The network operator should continue to assess the risks that climatic changes pose to its role as network operator and develop appropriate responses to reduce these risks as set out in the HA's Climate Change Risk Assessment 2011 document.
Technical Definition	<p>This measure concerns the ongoing assessment and the development of responses (actions) for the vulnerabilities identified in the Highways Agency's published Climate Change Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Climate change is identified as a priority risk and one that is central to organisational planning. The cause of the risk is identified as not targeting management actions or not demonstrably reducing climate change risks defined by the organisation in a timely way. Unmanaged, the consequence would be a deterioration in network integrity; increased maintenance liability; increased disruption to service from events such as flooding, leading to increased risks to road users and operational staff from extremes in weather.</p> <p>The Agency's climate change adaptation strategy and framework enables the incorporation of climate change considerations into design standards and specifications, routine maintenance, operating procedures, and the development of contingency plans. The framework model, a systematic process used to identify the activities of the Agency affected by climate change, determines associated risks and opportunities (reported in Climate Change Risk Assessment 2011), and informs options to address them.</p> <p>Tackling the issue of climate change through a framework of agreed adaptation choices (responses/actions) aims to maintain resilience of the highway infrastructure.</p>
Rationale	The adaptation choices (responses/actions) each aim to manage or reduce risk exposure offsetting undesirable consequences.
Formula	Performance is calculated from monitoring of progress and delivery of agreed adaptation choices (responses/actions).
Start Date	April 2013.

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Performance	Delivery of agreed adaptation choices (responses/actions).
Behavioural Impact	The risks associated with investment in new long-term infrastructure can be reduced by integrating consideration of climate change from the early planning and design stages.
Comparability	Organisations which reported under the first round (including Highways Agency) will be invited by Defra to update their reports and several new organisations would be asked to report for the first time.
Collection Frequency	The tentative timelines are that invitations to report will be issued in Winter 2013/2014 and reports will be expected by mid to end of 2015.
Clearance Process	Clearance process for release will be via internal line and publication of data will be prepared by Highways Agency publication team.
Time Lag	N/A.
Data Source	Technical and specialist staff will advance their work and record progress.
Type of Data	Risk assessment review evidence, technical specification for work and progress monitoring.
Robustness and Data Limitations	Highlight data and methodology limitations.
Collecting Organisation	Highways Agency is the organisation responsible.
Return Format	Written word.
Geographical Coverage	National.
How Indicator Can be Broken Down	Tracking of priority adaptation choices (responses/actions). Delivery of adaptation choices (responses/actions) and completion of Defra second reporting round.