

## Highways Agency Specification 2013-14 – Technical Note

| Field                               | Notes  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Short Title</b>                  | Work with Partners to Achieve Commitments on Air Quality.  |
| <b>Performance Specification</b>    | Output – PS 5.5  |
| <b>Requirement / Output Details</b> | The network operator should work with partners to achieve its commitments on air quality, and fulfil its role as statutory consultee to the local air quality management process.  |
| <b>Technical Definition</b>         | <p>Working with local authorities, commenting on their Local Air Quality Management Plans (LAQMP).</p> <p>Monitoring air quality on relevant sections of the HA network and making this information publically available on the HA website.</p> <p>Working with DfT and DEFRA on better understanding the impact of network improvements and management on air quality.</p>  |
| <b>Rationale</b>                    | <p>The European union has set limit values for key air pollutants. The pollutant of greatest concern on the UK is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) with a limit value of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> as an annual average to be achieved by 2010. The European Commission can grant an extension of compliance to 2015 if robust improvement plans are demonstrated.</p> <p>The UK Government have a national air quality strategy approach requiring local authorities to manage poor air quality and declare Air Quality Management Areas if necessary. The HA is a statutory consultee for the management of these areas.</p> <p>To date the UK is non compliant with the NO<sub>2</sub> limit value in 40 of 43 areas and the European Commission has not granted an extension of compliance to 2015 for the majority of these areas. Roads are a major contributing source of NO<sub>2</sub> pollution.</p> |
| <b>Formula</b>                      | Air quality monitoring data to be provided on the HA website from end of Quarter 3 - 2013/14 onwards.  |
| <b>Start Date</b>                   | January 2014.  |
| <b>Performance</b>                  | Web page data updated six-monthly (but more frequently if possible).   |
| <b>Behavioural Impact</b>           | Data will inform HA/DfT understanding of scheme risk. Local authorities will be able to compare the data with their own monitoring and the data will enable faster scheme assessment.  |

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| <b>Comparability</b>                    | The data can be compared with local authority air monitoring and then the data can be used by DEFRA to inform their reporting on directive compliance to the European Commission. |
| <b>Collection Frequency</b>             | Monthly.  |
| <b>Clearance Process</b>                | Checked through environment group.  |
| <b>Time Lag</b>                         | Up to six months.   |
| <b>Data Source</b>                      | Live network monitoring collected by a service provider and provided to HA major projects network services environment group.   |
| <b>Type of Data</b>                     | Numerical data provided on a spreadsheet.   |
| <b>Robustness and Data Limitations</b>  | Data has to be calibrated against known accurate permanent monitoring stations. Not all the network will be monitored.  |
| <b>Collecting Organisation</b>          | Service providers.  |
| <b>Return Format</b>                    | Numerical data provided on a spread sheet.  |
| <b>Geographical Coverage</b>            | Partial coverage of network focused on air quality hotspots and areas of potential network improvement.   |
| <b>How Indicator Can be Broken Down</b> | Data relates to individual properties/receptors adjacent to the network.  |