

## Pavement Condition Information Systems

(The Newsletter for the PCIS contract which includes UKPMS & SCANNER Support 2008-2011)

### *Newsletter No 2 – October 2008*

#### **Website**

The former UKPMS website has been transferred to new servers at TRL and is now available online at <http://www.ukpms.com>. This website will cover all matters relating to PCIS (Pavement Condition Information Systems) to include UKPMS and SCANNER as well as other future developments

The Department for Transport has stated the main objective of the new contract awarded to TRL and Atkins as being **"...to support local highways authorities in their use of information technology to deliver their road service"**

In the future we intend to carry out a major redevelopment of the website to help support this objective and we would welcome your comments on how we can improve the present website. As a start it would be useful if you could say:

*What do you mainly use the website for?*

*How easy is it to use and to find the things you want?*

*How could it be made more helpful and more useful for you?*

Please send us your thoughts and comments, at [ukpms@trl.co.uk](mailto:ukpms@trl.co.uk).



#### **Accreditation, Quality Assurance and Audit**

Tom Buckland (right) is managing this work stream of the PCIS support contract, which will supervise the accreditation, quality assurance and audit of pavement information technologies, including accreditation of inspectors for visual surveys, the UKPMS annual health check and SCANNER accreditation.

#### **Visual Surveys – Inspector Accreditation**

Under the previous UKPMS support arrangements, the Visual Survey sub Group of the UKPMS steering group set up new arrangements for "Inspector Accreditation", which are described at:



[http://www.ukpms.com/tech\\_docs/inspector.asp](http://www.ukpms.com/tech_docs/inspector.asp).

Three well established survey companies carried out the accreditation tests on test sites near their offices. Separate tests were provided for CVI accreditation and for DVI accreditation. It was recommended that inspectors should not attempt the tests for the two different survey types on the same day.

The UK Roads Board has confirmed the importance of having reliable survey data, and the value of inspector accreditation to support consistent visual survey data. We are therefore re-establishing the arrangements, on behalf of the UK Roads Board.

Three survey contractors have agreed to continue to carry out the tests, Scott Wilson, based in Nottingham, WDM based in Bristol and Yotta DCL, which is moving from West Sussex to Leamington Spa. TRL will provide the administration for the tests, with technical support provided by James Wallis (above).

We are revising UKPMS document no 113, the UKPMS Visual Survey Accreditation Scheme, Outline of Accreditation Procedure and will put a new booking form on the website. Anyone wishing to become an accredited inspector for CVI and / or DVI surveys should take a copy of the form from the website, fill it in and send it to [visualsurveys@trl.co.uk](mailto:visualsurveys@trl.co.uk). We will find the next available date at the survey test centre, and make a provisional booking for the candidate. You will find full instructions and conditions with the form.

### **UKPMS**

The 2008 **Annual Health Check** (AHC) for systems accredited to the UKPMS specification has started. Ro Cartwright (right) has reviewed the need for amendments to the "Rules & Parameters" with developers, local authorities and national governments, **and concluded that no changes are required this year**. Therefore we will continue to use RP8.01 this year, and have agreed the programme for the 2008 AHC with developers. The 2008 AHC will include the national reports for 2008/09. We intend that this should be completed early in 2009.



**UKPMS version control.** Some developers issue more than one version of their UKPMS software in a year. Users should note that **ONLY** the versions that have passed an Annual Health Check for that year are accredited to UKPMS. Other versions are not accredited and may give unexpectedly different results. Users should check the version numbers on their reports to ensure that they are using the accredited version to produce their performance indicators.

One minor change is the issue of **new weighting sets**, which are being posted on the website ([http://www.ukpms.com/Nov08/Weighting\\_sets\\_2008.asp](http://www.ukpms.com/Nov08/Weighting_sets_2008.asp)). These can be loaded into UKPMS systems by local authorities and used immediately. There is no need to wait for new versions of UKPMS from UKPMS developers. The calculations for the SCANNER RCI are the same as last year, but some of the weighting sets are being "re-badged" to accord with the change from BV223 and BV224a to NI168 and NI169 (in England). Further information will be posted on the website. Local authorities can continue to use the current weighting sets to calculate the BVPI and give an indicative value for the NI (in England) until the new sets are posted.

**Principal motorways** (i.e. those for which a local authority is the highway authority) are included in NI168 and should be designated as Department for Transport classification 3.

### **SCANNER Survey Vehicles**

The SCANNER accreditation, QA and audit contract is managed, as part of this new PCIS support contract, on behalf of the Department for Transport and the UK Roads Board. Patrick Werro (below), manages the SCANNER accreditation, QA and Audit process.

The purpose of SCANNER accreditation, QA and audit is to provide assurance that the data from the surveys are consistent and reliable. With three different contractors (Jacobs, WDM and Yotta DCL) and currently eight vehicles, each built and tested individually, and using a wide range of different systems, it is a pretty challenging task, and needs close attention to detail.



As well as supervising the annual testing of each vehicle at the TRL site and on the road routes, we supervise the contractors carrying out a repeat survey each month with each vehicle, and analyse the results at TRL. We compare the results, to check that the surveys are "repeatable" – one aspect of consistency. We also carry out independent surveys on a small sample of the local road network, and compare our data with the contractors'. These auditor's surveys check "reproducibility" – another aspect of consistency. A certificate, valid for one year, is issued on successful completion of the annual testing at TRL.

We also investigate any anomalies reported to us by local authorities – collecting survey data from the contractors and analysing it independently to try to find out why the results were not what was expected. Finally, we collect the BVPI results and compare them, year on year, to find places where they seem to have changed unexpectedly, and we investigate these occurrences as well.

**If you have any concerns about SCANNER data, or the results from SCANNER surveys, please let us know at [scanner@trl.co.uk](mailto:scanner@trl.co.uk).**

**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 the circulation list please email your details to us.

We welcome your comments and questions at:	<a href="mailto:newsletter@ukpms.com">newsletter@ukpms.com</a>
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