

**NEWS**

*10 November 2010*

**“Highway Inspectors new register”**

The Institute of Highway Engineers has launched a national training and certification scheme for Highway Inspectors which sets out rigorous training standards and will offer a Register of qualified Inspectors.

“Highway Inspectors are at the frontline of maintaining our highway network and the first to be scrutinised by court proceedings but, whilst Well Maintained Highways puts great emphasis on inspector training, there’s not been a national standard for Inspector knowledge and competence until now”, said Stuart Smith, West Sussex CC, for the IHE steering group.

A report from Leicestershire CC was commissioned by an IHE-led group in 2009 to set out benchmark standards and procedures with funding from the CSS (now ADEPT). Following endorsement by the UK Roads Board at its autumn meeting, the scheme will be formally launched in 2011.

“The old recruitment routes for Inspectors are drying up – we need to introduce a more professional approach and create a proper career path which will attract young entrants”, said Richard Hayes, Northern Area Highways Manager, Northumberland CC. “The IHE-led scheme gives us the foundation for recognising the achievements of our inspectors.

Progress reports will be published on [www.theihe.org](http://www.theihe.org) - follow the link on ‘Quick Finder’.

## **Qualifying Highway Safety Inspectors: Your questions answered -**

- **Is IHE running a training course** for Inspectors?

No, the Highway Inspectors Board, managed by IHE, will approve existing training providers.

- **Who are the providers?**

There are several well established centres which have validation from National Awarding Bodies such as SQA and LANTRA. They are STC, RM skills, Leicestershire County Council and Birmingham/Amey – plus many authorities and a few companies train their inspectors in-house. All will be encouraged to apply for approval.

- **What are the criteria for Centre Approval?**

Centres will need to provide training in seven core areas including law, inspection policies and procedures, claims and material recognition and meet various quality assurance procedures.

- **How will Inspectors be assessed?**

Centres will be required to test Inspectors' knowledge and their practical competence. Those who pass the assessment will be registered with IHE with the registration renewable every five years.

- **Will experienced Inspectors need to be re-trained?**

Not necessarily. Experienced staff could go straight for assessment by an approved centre but a short refresher course might be a good investment.

- **Is there any career progression after registration?**

More senior Inspectors with supervisor responsibilities should be able to follow the Individual Route to EngTech registration with IHE and ICE. This route caters for technicians with experience but with few or no academic qualifications.

IHE is exploring routes for progression to IEng for those who move into highway maintenance.

– END –

**Notes for Editors**

1. IHE is the professional qualifying institution for specialist engineers (CEng, IEng and Eng Tech) delivering sustainable transport in the UK.

**Press Enquiries**

Judith Walker, IHE Secretary, 020 7436 7487

Email: [secretary@theihe.org](mailto:secretary@theihe.org)

**INSTITUTE OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS**

**De Morgan House, 58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HS**

**T: 020 7436 7487 F: 020 7436 7488 E: [secretary@theihe.org](mailto:secretary@theihe.org)**