

## HAUC(UK) - RAUC(S) Code of Conduct

The Highway Authorities Utilities Committee (HAUC(UK)) and the Roads Authorities and Utilities Committee (Scotland) (RAUC(S)) recognise the need to promote self regulation and actively work together with roads authorities, utilities, contractors and other key stakeholders to manage and reduce disruption and inconvenience which works in roads may cause to road users, businesses and residents within the UK.

HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) promote active participation at co-ordination meetings focusing on discussing advance planning, joint working and collaborative practices and in particular the following:

### Coordination and Cooperation Duties

HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) endorse the aims and objectives of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 and in particular the duty of road works authorities to coordinate and of utilities to cooperate. They also endorse the need for roads authorities and utilities to work with the Scottish Road Works Commissioner to adopt best practice with a view to continual improvement.

### Advance Planning

Utilities and roads authorities will continue to share long term plans for asset upgrades and major maintenance projects to promote greater opportunities for trench sharing, site sharing and accommodating roads authority planning as part of their commitment to encouraging improved and enhanced co-ordination.

### Use of Minimum-Dig Technology

HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) will continue to promote the use of minimum-dig technology, where practical and safe to do so, in order to reduce the extent, environmental impact and duration of works.

### Plating

To maximise the availability of carriageways and footways to road users and pedestrians during traffic-sensitive times HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) will encourage its members to consider the option of trench plating, or applying bridging techniques, to utility excavations at sites where it is beneficial, safe and practical to do so and does not unduly extend the duration of the works or adversely affect the road structure.

### Working Outside Peak Hours

On the busiest roads, utilities and roads authorities will strive to work at the times of the day that minimise disruption to traffic and reduce excessive delay and inconvenience to the road user. As part of the planning / project approval process and in discussion with environmental and roads departments along with affected stakeholders, the options of evening, weekend and 24 hour working at key locations will be encouraged where it is deemed safe to do so and where environmental concerns and disturbance to residents can be kept to an acceptable level.

## **Communications**

HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) will actively encourage all works promoters to employ communications strategies appropriate to the works and customer needs. We will continue to encourage the use of work information boards at all sites to provide contact details and additional unique information boards specific to long term (major works) projects displaying updates on progress and estimated completion dates.

## **Inspection**

HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) will continue to promote improvement in inspection and compliance processes along with performance monitoring and will encourage prompt rectification of non-compliance. Utilising the benefits of inspections of all utility and road authority works we will work together to minimise the effects of essential maintenance works on both the road infrastructure and its availability to the road user

## **First Time Reinstatements**

To ensure work sites are returned to public use at the earliest opportunity and help reduce any possible delays and disruption, HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) promote the use of first time permanent reinstatements wherever possible.

## **Good Practice Guide**

An important key to self regulation is publicising good practice to the road works community. HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) are committed to both elicit and share good practice to help raise awareness and drive performance improvement. We will continue to share examples of good practice on our web sites and at events around the country, and adopt the highest standards that emerge from this awareness.

## **Support and Continuous Improvement**

To ensure best possible practice, it is important that all relevant parties agree to sign up to the principles of this code of conduct.

HAUC(UK) and RAUC(S) will review and revise the code as appropriate to ensure it remains relevant and continues to reflect good practice.

<b>Jerry McConkey &amp; Mark Ostheimer</b> <b>Joint Chairs of HAUC(UK)</b>	<b>David Armitage &amp; Kevin Horne</b> <b>Joint Chairs of RAUC(S)</b>
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