

Health and Safety Executive Paper		LAFORUM 03/02	
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THE LOCAL AUTHORITY FORUM

The application of PUWER '98 regulation 28(e) to Refuse Collection Vehicles

Issue

1 Regulation 28(e) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 98) in respect of Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) requires adequate devices for improving driver's vision, so far as is reasonably practicable (SFAIRP). The transitional period afforded by PUWER 98 expires in December 2002, and steps identified in the risk assessment process will need to be effected to this end by this date.

2 HSE considers CCTV to be the effective means of achieving compliance with the requirements of PUWER.

Timing

3 Routine

You should however be aware that the transitional period expires 5 December 2002.

Recommendation

4 The LA Forum to note the legislative imperative, and HSE's preferred option.

5 The LA Forum to consider how it can be best used to ensure that LA employees, and others, meet the requirements of PUWER 98.

Background

6 Since 1994 15 people have been killed in connection with RCVs at work. Of these, half have involved reversing operations.

7 PUWER 98 came into force on 5 December 1998 for all work equipment supplied after that date. Transitional arrangements existed for, in particular, mobile work equipment already in use.

8 Regulation 28(e) applies to mobile work equipment when it is about to move, or while it is travelling, including manoeuvring. Under these circumstances where the drivers direct field of vision is inadequate to ensure safety then visibility aids or other suitable devices should be provided so far as is reasonably practicable.

9 RCVs have reduced visibility for the driver when travelling in reverse. This is of particular significance for RCVs where segregation of pedestrians is difficult to achieve.

10 HSE commissioned research “Visibility From the Driving Position of Workplace Vehicles - An Assessment of Visibility Aids and their Current Uses”. The main recommendation of this report being that “The use of CCTV, although not solving all the problems in this area of workplace safety, represents a major improvement in visibility from the driving position”. (Summary, main findings and main recommendations attached as Annex 1).

11 Examples of devices which can aid the driver’s vision include plane, angled and curved mirrors, fresnel lenses, radar, and closed circuit television (CCTV) systems. The selection of these devices for use on mobile work equipment is a matter for risk assessment, taking account of the purposes for which the devices are provided and their ability to improve driver visibility.

12 BS EN 1501-1:1998, Part 1 for Rear loaded Refuse Collection Vehicles requires the provision of CCTV on vehicles manufactured since 1999. This was to safe guard the bin loading area, however, most provide good coverage of areas not covered by the mirrors.

Argument

13 HSE has already issued guidance aimed at the quarries, docks and waste disposal industry, along with guidance for large goods vehicles which supports the use of CCTV.

14 The cost of CCTV starts at £300. Regulation 28 (e) is qualified by SFAIRP. Each LA operate a limited number of RCVs, therefore CCTV is likely to provide a solution to the issue.

Other Implications

1 If CCTV is the agreed solution, the same standard will have to be adopted by commercial refuse collectors. This could be taken forward by the LAs within the conditions of the refuse collection contract.

Action

2 LA Forum to agree to the recommendation above.