

ROAD SAFETY AND WINTER CONDITIONS STANDARDS

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ABSTRACT

As part of the decade of road safety, the will to limit the number of deaths related to road infrastructure is a major challenge for all. The standards used in road design take into account a multitude of factors to ensure the safety of users on the network. When winter conditions occur, the user meets conditions where many of his references are hidden under the snow.

In the context related to road safety, this presentation aims to explore the relationship between standards and their weak points in winter conditions. The influence of the environment perceived by the user is modified as snow accumulations and maintenance go on. Roadside management, recovery areas and the remaining visibility at intersections will be compared on a normative and realistic basis.

In addition, and according to the expertise developed by the PIARC Committee 3.2 dealing with human factors, mainly the perception of the environment by the user, a description will be presented to identify the elements in winter conditions which directly influence the user behaviour.

The link between emergency and preventive maintenance efforts and the return to normal conditions will be discussed to help managers identify the interventions that are directly related to road safety improvement.