
By: David Beaver, Head of Network Management
To: Highways Advisory Board – 5 May 2009
Subject: KHS Policy for managing skips on the Highway
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This document sets out the policy for Kent Highway Services to manage skips placed on the public highway. It covers the need for licensing of skips (or equivalent type of container) placed on the highway, charges to be applied and action to be taken in cases of non-compliance. This matter will be included in the next edition of the Forward Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Control of skips placed on the highway under S139 of the Highways Act, requires permission of the highway authority for the skip (or equivalent type of container) to be placed. This has driven the need for formal licensing of skips in Kent at a minimal charge, currently £20 per week or part week, in order to be able to fully consider the safety and disruption factors for highway users whilst the skip is in place.
- 1.2 If any skip is placed upon the highway without a licence the operator will be required to immediately apply for a licence and pay the respective charges – including for time already spent on the highway. Regular inspections will be carried out by local inspectors, checking skips for valid licences and compliance and investigating any complaints received. A penalty charge of £47 (in line with the NRSWA defect site inspection fee) is to be applied when a skip is on the public highway without a licence. Records will be kept of offending operators and where there are repeated offences, we reserve the right to refuse an operator permission to place skips on the highway. Where circumstances dictate we can remove offending skips and recharge costs to operators where known. In exceptional cases, we have the option to prosecute the skip operator.

2. Recommendations

Subject to the views of this Board, it is proposed to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste that

- the policy to actively manage skips placed on the highway be approved;
 - continued licensing of skips on the highway be approved;
 - continued charging for licences at current levels of £20 per week or part week be approved;
 - a penalty charge of £47 (in line with the NRSWA defect site inspection fee) to be applied when skips are placed on the public highway without a licence be approved.
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Background Documents:

Highways Act 1980
Traffic Management Act 2004
Skip Licensing Policy for Kent Highway Services
Skip Licence application pack

Appendices

Skip Licensing Policy for Kent Highway Services
Skip Licence application pack

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