

Q: Our NRSWA Inspectors have attended a NRSWA Supervisors course. What is the difference between this and the 6033 NRSWA and Permit Compliance Inspections course? Which is more appropriate?

A: Both schemes are relevant to NRSWA Inspectors. However the 6033 scheme is recognised by the Institute of Highway Engineers as being best practice and specific to the knowledge and skills required by a NRSWA & Permit Compliance Inspector. In contrast the NRSWA Supervisors scheme is designed specifically for those involved in undertaking the works. Therefore, what is covered on both schemes is significantly different and where there is overlap, there is a very different emphasis when looking at issues from an inspector's point of view, compared to a site supervisor's view.

The NRSWA Supervisor course is a national scheme designed for utilities/contractors supervising works on the highway and does not cover a significant range of the skills and knowledge required by NRSWA inspectors to consistently and successfully challenge utilities/contractors and carry out appropriate enforce action. The NRSWA Supervisor course also does not take into account local policies and procedures for NRSWA and Permit Compliance Inspections.

The NRSWA and Permit Compliance Inspections scheme covers a wider range of national codes of practice, but also looks in detail at local policies and procedures to ensure these are understood and effectively implemented by Inspectors. It also includes a desktop review of local Policies/Procedures to assist Highway Authorities in identifying any gaps and how best to fill these prior to candidates being assessed.

The NRSWA Supervisor Programme covers the following from an undertaker's perspective and is good underpinning knowledge for an inspector:

- Specification for the Reinstatement Openings in Roads/Highways Approved Code of Practice
- Safety at Street Works and Road Works, Approved Code of Practice (Department for Transport)
- An Introduction to Vehicle Actuated Portable Traffic Signals (Department for Transport)
- Avoiding Danger from Underground Services HSG 47 (Health and Safety Executive)
- Volume 1: NJUG Guidelines on The Positioning and Colour Coding of Underground Utilities' Apparatus (National Joint Utilities Group)
- Roadworks Theory and Practice
- Specification for Highway Works

However, in addition to looking at only the relevant sections of the above documents, the 6033 NRSWA and Permit Compliance Inspections Award covers the following:

- Site Classification
- Reasons for Inspections
- Types of Inspection – Including Category A, B & C Inspections
- Code of Practice for Inspections
- Coordination Code of Practice (including Permits)
- Highway Reinstatement
- Carrying out a NRSWA inspection
- Defect recognition
- Intervention Levels
- Measuring/Interpreting the results/Taking Photographs
- Recording of Inspections
- ETON6 & the New Street Manager system - Reporting to/from Undertakers
- Reinstatement Defect Process
- Signing, Lighting & Guarding Inadequacy Process
- Opening/Closing Notices
- TMA 2004
- Section 74
- Local HAUC and local Permit Schemes
- Local Policies & Procedures/other relevant local/National documents

For more detail about the NRSWA and Permit Compliance Inspections course, please ask for a copy of the course brochure.

IHE's Well Managed Highway Liability Risk publication is the official guidance which accompanies the latest Well Managed Highways Code of Practice. It recommends City & Guilds 6033 Units 301 & 321 – NRSWA and Permit Compliance Inspections as part of Best Practice for Inspectors.