



POTHOLE

Definition of the term “pothole”

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The proposed definition of “pothole” is:

a deterioration of the pavement surface in which the material breaks down in a relatively short time and is lost causing a steep depression

Notes on the definition:

- [1] Generally, potholes require rapid remedial action to maintain the safety of road users.
- [2] Potholes will also need to be reinstated to maintain the functional requirements and comfort, but the time-constraints on rectification for these requirements will not be as immediate.
- [3] Potholes will typically have a depth of at least 30 mm and an area equivalent to a diameter between 100 mm and 1 m with the values for a specific situation depending on several factors including the traffic speed and intensity, the type of vehicle (particularly the presence of bicycles and pedestrians) and the climate.
- [4] Potholes can grow once they have emerged, but generally stop growing after a certain time. However, other potholes can appear close to an existing one.
- [5] Potholes can occur due to several mechanisms (such as fracture, attrition and seasonal).