POTHOLE

Definition of the term “pothole”
Deliverable No. 1
December 2011

Project Coordinator: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Project Partner A: Danish Road Institute
Project Partner B: Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories
Project Partner C: Transport Research Laboratory
Project Partner D: University of Zilina
Project Partner E: University of Twente
Project Partner F: Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute
Project No. 832700
Project acronym: POTHOLE
Project title:
Durable Pothole Repairs

Deliverable No. 1

Due date of deliverable: 31.12.2011
Actual submission date: XX.XX.XXXX

Start date of project: 01.10.2011
End date of project: 30.09.2013

Author of this deliverable:
Dr J C Nicholls, Transport Research Laboratory, UK

Version: draft 01
Definition of the term “pothole”

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).