

UNHCR – Collision Investigation

Keeping you safe on the road

To keep our teams working round the clock, around the world, they need transport. Over 10,000 vehicles, in fact, everything from motorcycles to armoured trucks. All sizes, shapes, makes, models and ages. Covering thousands of miles a year, often in remote and inhospitable areas. Road crashes, unfortunately, constitute a significant threat to the health and safety of UNHCR personnel, our partners, Persons of Concern, and the local communities in which we operate. Plus, having vehicles out of action or personnel incapacitated by injury immediately reduces our capacity to fulfil our mission. It's, therefore, imperative that our people are as safe as can be when on the road on a mission.

So, we have reached out to UK-based TRL to help us improve the way UNHCR responds to crashes involving our people and vehicles. Together with TRL, we have established a formal process to respond to collisions. This includes investigating the scene of the incident and providing a root cause analysis for every collision. This quickly reveals trends. Identifying patterns will support developing action plans and interventions to make using UNHCR vehicles safer for everyone on the road.

With such a large fleet, there is plenty of data available, and the collection and analysis of this data will underpin this new service from TRL. Any recommendations to change the way we do things will be backed by factual evidence.

In brief, TRL will investigate serious collisions involving UNHCR vehicles, where people have suffered severe or fatal injuries, or the crash resulted in a total loss of the UNHCR vehicle. Teaming up with GardaWorld to attend collision scenes in high-risk locations, TRL will collect data allowing them to analyse all the factors that caused or contributed to the collision.

The UNHCR is a unique organisation; this process will identify the unique mix of countermeasures which will make your next journey safer. Applying a Safe Systems approach, this process will focus on safe roads, vehicles, road use, and speeds.



About TRL

We are delighted to be working with TRL on this programme. Initially an agency of the United Kingdom Department for Transport, TRL was privatised in 1996 and is now a social purpose enterprise. For the last 20 years, TRL has provided proactive advice to organisations with a global footprint on their occupational road safety policy, assisting them in improving the

standard of care under their work-related road safety obligations. Much of this advice, based on original research, has been adopted by governments in country-specific legislation to do with speed, vehicle modifications, and the impairment to drivers experienced through distractions like the use of a mobile phone while driving and how it relates to the root cause of crashes.

GardaWorld will undertake most of the collision investigations on the ground in high-risk environments; TRL will undertake scene investigations in domestic and low-risk locations and provide desktop reviews of all the data gathered using well-established processes.

All of the international vehicle safety standards guiding new vehicle designs are based on crash testing done by TRL, which means they have a deep understanding of vehicle dynamics. This is particularly relevant for UNHCR, which has an assorted fleet of HGVs, motorcycles, and many specialist vehicles in regular use.

Most road-building standards have been written by TRL, particularly in regions where UNHCR is active, which helps interpret the environmental context of collisions.

In addition to data scientists, human factors specialists, and vehicle and highways engineers, TRL employs ex-police and law enforcement officers with extensive experience in traffic law and why traffic law violations lead to road crashes. TRL's collision investigators team is regularly called upon to give evidence in court in high-profile incidents reported in the media.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with UNHCR on this programme," said Craig Arnold, TRL's UN Technical Lead. "Not only will this process lead to safer ways of working for UNHCR drivers, but it will also ultimately support the communities in which they deliver their mission. By demonstrating good practices and adopting a Safe Systems Approach, the knowledge transfer process, which is integral to the UNHCR mission, will inevitably lead to safer roads for all".

