

Belfast Harbour

Winter Gritting Policy Statement

It is the policy of Belfast Harbour Commissioners (BHC) to maintain safe road and quay surfaces at all times, so far as is reasonably practical.

The objective of this Policy is to facilitate, as far as reasonably possible, the safe movement of traffic and personnel on the road network and operational quays that are under the control of BHC during adverse winter conditions.

At times of predicted low temperatures BHC aims to provide a winter gritting service enabling as far as is reasonably practical the safe movement of traffic on all primary (blue) routes and other essential operational roads and quays (green areas) as defined by BHC.

- Primary Routes – Will be gritted in accordance with the currently published Department for Regional Development (DRD) Transport NI Winter Service Standards commencing 1st October and finishing 30th April. In the event of predicted low temperatures outside these dates gritting will be conducted to the same standards.
- Secondary Roads & Operational Quays – Those Port operational roads and common user quays (designated as green areas) under the control of BHC will be treated in accordance with the DRD Transport NI Winter Service Standards.
- Areas under lease or licence – Gritting of areas under lease or licence to customers shall be the responsibility of the lease or licence holder, unless otherwise agreed in writing by BHC. Such premises will only be treated on receipt of a written annual acceptance of terms and form of indemnity from an authorised signatory of the lease or licence holder.

Details of the designated blue and green routes are available on request from BHC.

Neither Transport NI nor BHC have an absolute duty to provide winter gritting given the qualification of “reasonably practical”. It is not practically possible either to:

- Provide the service on all parts of the road network, or:
- Ensure running surfaces are kept free of ice or snow at all times, even on the treated parts of the network.

Roads will, therefore, be cleared of snow and treated in descending order of priority until such time as all the primary (blue) and secondary (green) salting routes are cleared. Then, if other roads are physically blocked or particularly hazardous and there is a need for access, further actions may be taken where resources permit.

In common with Transport NI and Belfast City Council, BHC does not undertake to provide gritting services to footways and cycle ways (other than where agreed in writing with lease or licence holders), however these may benefit from adjacent road gritting activities

Salt bins and salt are provided at specific locations for motorists and pedestrians as a means of self help to enable the salting of small areas of carriageway or footway etc that would not normally be covered by routine salting operations. Salt bins will be checked and filled before commencement of the winter service season and periodically checked and refilled during the winter season, frequency being dependent on the prevailing conditions.