



# Questionnaire

on guidelines regarding new windmills  
located close to major roads  
(expressroads and railways)

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Road Directorate  
**Copenhagen**  
Niels Juels Gade 13  
P.O. Box 9018  
DK-1022 København K  
Denmark  
Tel. +45 7244 3333  
Fax +45 3315 6335  
vd@vd.dk  
Roaddirectorate.dk

## Questionnaire regarding minimum distances for new windmills

- 1 Are there any existing legal or administrative guidelines laid down, regarding minimum distances separately for new windmills located by major roads (traffic and railways), in your country? Yes

If yes to question number 1 - continue to question number 2:

- 2 Which guidelines do exist? Please list below:

*Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22: Renewable Energy  
A Companion Guide to PPS22*

*SPAN (Spatial Planning Advice Note) 12/09*

*Both are administrative – PPS 22 is national (UK) policy covering all Planning aspects of renewable energy. The companion guide does not have policy status but is considered to have some weight also.*

*SPAN 12/09 is HA guidance on best practice. It applies in England only, and then only to Highways Agency (HA) administered roads.*

- 3 Which administrative authority has laid down the guidelines?

*Department of Communities & Local Government (PPS)*

*Highways Agency (SPAN)*

- 4 Are the guidelines laid down in cooperation with the road and/or railway authorities?

*The Highways Agency is consulted during the preparation of the PPS documents.*

Provided that the road and/or railway authorities have been involved in laying down the guidelines: Are there any inquiry into or evaluation of the laid down guidelines carried out that regards:

- 5 Windmills possible impact/effect on the major roads' passability. Which impact/effect?

*Re PPS22 - As far as I am aware, no formal research or evaluation was undertaken by the Department for Transport, the Highways Agency, or the Department of Communities & Local Government into the impact/effects of Wind turbines on roads while preparing PPS22. Experts in the area may have been consulted at the time, and existing research referred to and reviewed.*

*Re SPAN 12/09 – The Highways Agency first produced a version of this guidance in 2006. The guidance was informed by desk based research which included reviews of existing academic and scientific studies as well as reviews of other media.*

*There have been 3 versions of the guidance. Review of the SPAN is on going as new research and events become known. There have also been reviews of our advice by specialist consultants, as well as ongoing discussions with representatives of the wind industry, and a little research into the view of Governments and Authorities around the world.*

*Issues that have been considered include – structural safety (collapse, break up), visual distraction, icing, shadow flicker, noise, air turbulence, dazzle/light reflection, and access (construction and maintenance). Some of these have now been removed from our latest SPAN as we can satisfied through research or changes to technology that they are no longer a concern.*

*PPS22, PPS22 Companion Guide, and SPAN 13/09 are enclosed for information.*

6 Windmills possible impact/effect on the road users' absentmindedness. Which impact/effect?

*As 5.*

7 Windmills possible impact/effect on road safety. Which impact/effect?

*As 5.*

8 Are there any other impact/effects?

*As 5.*

**If no to question number 1 - continue to question number 9:**

- 9 How long a distance do your authority administer when new windmills are located by major roads (expressroads and railways)?

*The Highways Agency SPAN advises a minimum setback of maximum height of the wind turbine plus 50 meters. It also allows for the possibility that this can be reduced based on a site specific assessment.*

- 10 How do you ensure that traffic interests are taken into consideration, eg that good visibility and attention to traffic signs and signalization are not compromised?

*The Highways Agency is a statutory consultee on Planning Applications to site wind turbines near to the HA road network. Each application is considered against the criteria set out in SPAN xx/09. As no turbines can be within the highway boundary, it would not be possible for them to interfere with visibility of the road, or visibility of traffic signs and signals which are also always within the boundary of the Highway land.*

*However, in order to ensure that safety, in general, is secured, the Highways Agency has power to direct a Planning Authority not to grant Planning Permission to erect a turbine if we believe that there may be a safety issue. The promoter has the right to appeal against this direction and that appeal is heard by an Independent Inspector.*