

The Swedish Transport Administration

SHK's assessment of the reply from the Swedish Transport Administration

The 3 December 2015 the Swedish Accident Investigation Authority (Statens haverikommission – SHK) published a final report (RO 2015:02) concerning an accident with a bus on the national highway 27 south of Tranemo. In the report SHK issued a safety recommendation to the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket).

The Swedish Transport Administration has replied to the safety recommendations and described the measures taken.

In the report, SHK has described the differences between the road safety work carried out in the TEN-T road network (e.g. the European highways) and on highways with 90 km/h as speed limit (see in particular section 2.5 of the final report). The road safety measures taken by the Transport Administration regarding highway 27 are also noted.

The shape of the slope of the road at the accident site and its characteristics with larger stones within the safety zone means, according to SHK, that the road does not meet the construction requirements now placed on roads with 80 km/h as the reference speed, and that this could have been detected at the speed review that has been performed.

SHK points in the report on the fact that the Road Safety Act (2010:1362) is not applicable on highway 27 and similar highways. From a safety point of view, this is questionable. According to SHK this does however not prevent the Transport Administration from applying, to a greater extent, a systematic approach to these roads similar to that of the TEN-T road network.

The fact that the Swedish Transport Administration has extended the mapping of the road network is a step in the right direction. However, it is not apparent from the Transport Administration's response what results the extended mapping leads to, beside a classification of the road. It is, as an example, not mentioned if this also means that regular safety inspections are performed and if they include design factors such as the side slopes.

SHK considers that the recommendation is partially taken care of (Closed - partly adequate response).

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