

Giving back

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Exiting news, we have done it, it is coming shortly. Our and your single point of reference database on all aspects of safety and transport related reference.

There is an intrinsic link between what we do as a company, specialising in crash and other similar incidents such as workplace slip and fall and machinery incidents, the investigation thereof, reconstruction and cause analysis and all issues of safety and the database. Beyond what we do, we have always contributed to testing, research, general informative technical articles and published research papers, these have been key to our contributions to aspects of safety. Among this, we have assisted clients extensively in aspects of risk audits and general safety improvements in a wide range of issues directly and indirectly related to transport. We have written on the issues of data assisting with these issues, both from the perspective of our private database¹ and to the development and ongoing work on a comprehensive database² that contributes to a wider safety analysis.

It is this co-operative database that we are now very proud to say has reached a point of content and development that we are finally able to place this online and make this a key, usable entity.

Through much discussion, consultation and research effort, we have partnered with a developer who very shortly will have the database functional and accessible online through appropriate user registration. Perhaps most importantly, we have structured the database in a very simple and integrative manner, that allows us to pull in an almost limitless range of data sets beyond the extensive data that we have already incorporated. This is intentionally considered as we foresee that the database is going to be a co-operative eye opener, not only in the direct sphere of Route Risk Audits, but in a wide range of transport and related analysis and research.

There are a vast range of data sets that are available Nationally and Internationally, however most of these have existed and are used in specific silos. Rather unfortunately, as useful as this data most certainly is, it all too often remains unknown, not accessible, assumed irrelevant or simply forgotten.

It is the key intention of this database to obtain and collaborate with this siloed data and to co-operate with our own data and the data we have already sourced and refined and grow the database.

Currently, we have structured the initial output use of the database to the selection of a specific point or route section analysis on a map. The output being a chronological document highlighting all of the database factors, selected by the user as to their needs or interest, either at, around or along the specified point or route selected. The database has been created with adaptability in mind, to outputs beyond that of this initial use.

So, what does it contain? Presently there are forty-six individual data sets, containing millions of datapoints accumulatively. Each data set is broken down to province and where possible, to region and specific address, contact details and other data that may be available. For example, more than twenty years of data pertaining to accident locations, provides very clear indications of hot spots. Where are all the electric vehicle charge points throughout South Africa? or perhaps where is Route Marker N3-6-44.0S? The database will tell you precisely, or will reference these in relation to your selected point or route. Further data sets are already at hand however these are being refined and updated before we can add these. We are in discussion with various institutes, entities and key role players, such as the insurance industry and vehicle manufacturers, that will certainly see the inclusion of further important data sets.

¹ <https://www.accidentsspecialist.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/A-history-of-case-records-of-Accident-Specialist-June-2020.pdf>

² <https://www.saioh.co.za/news/531116/An-Analysis-of-Historical-Crash-Data-Between-09-2009--09-2016.htm>

Perhaps most importantly, we welcome and promote the inclusion of your data to help grow, expand, improve and refine the database usefulness and capabilities. Perhaps you would like your data included so that you can use and reference your data against the other data content, however you need to limit your data access to yourself as a user, this we can very easily accommodate. This immediate flexibility is what sets our database apart.

The database is primarily automotive transport related, however by the very nature of the data contained, closely links to many other fields such as aero, rail, environmental, social and engineering elements.

At present, the majority of the data sets are what we refer to as largely static data, or data that is set and largely specific information that needs no, or infrequent updates. There are live data sets included, however these are currently restricted in their use to a somewhat static or historical nature, nonetheless provide key insight to various parameters. Moving forward, live data sets may become live or relatively regularly updated data sets.

Who maintains this database and how is this updated? We do, our team both inhouse at Accident Specialist and our developers are intimately familiar with the humble origins of the database. There is fulltime updating and development of the data with dedicated staff, to include almost fulltime field data collection on various data sets. Once again, it is this active use and contribution to the database by our very own office that's sets this database apart.

Where is the database accessible? Soon, our website will facilitate a dedicated page with your simple registration ensuring that you are able to access and use the database. This may be as a once off use, or perhaps you need continuous access for regular analysis or research, or perhaps just as a contributor.

But just what does this mean to me? It is limitless. You may be a fleet or transport risk manager and you need to quickly access a particular point in South Africa and determine what is the local police station to that point, or specialist service provider such as medical services, tyres, windscreen, Hazchem or the like. Accessing the database will provide you just that, all at one location. You may need to do a complete route analysis, once again, this is your starting point and answer to your many questions. Perhaps you are a researcher or analyst and need to compare particular factors across various data sets. Perhaps you are a SHEQ or safety and risk officer and are doing some level of risk analysis, once again the database will quite likely provide you with a great starting point to a wide range of risk and analysis factors.

Giving back, is a key phrase for us at Accident Specialist. Making use of the database has provided us with an opportunity to assist our clients. However, by providing the database, with registered access online, will also provide opportunity to many others. We see this as part of our contribution to help improve the devastating situation of deaths and serious injury on our roads, and hopefully to expand across borders.

Safe driving

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