



## **To Chief Executives of each Local Authority**

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

Circular RST 02/2019

### **Updates to Traffic Signs Manual 2019**

A Chara,

I am directed by Shane Ross, T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to issue this Circular together with updates for the Traffic Signs Manual 2019 (TSM). The TSM constitutes a direction given by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to Road Authorities under section 95 (16) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 in relation to the provision of traffic signs. This direction is given to Road Authorities for the purpose of the provision and use of traffic signs, other than Regulatory signs.

These updates supersede by chapter, any existing chapters of the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) and is available on [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie) and [www.trafficsigns.ie](http://www.trafficsigns.ie).

A summary of the relevant updates is set out below: -

#### **Chapter 0**

This is essentially the contents chapter but it also advises the reader that Chapter 10 has been removed in this version. Revised versions of the layouts previously contained in Chapter 10 are now available to view on [www.trafficsigns.ie](http://www.trafficsigns.ie).

#### **Chapter 1: Introduction and Sign Location**

As stated in Chapter 0, the reader is advised that Chapter 10 has been removed.

#### **Chapter 2: Directional and Information Signs**

Changes have been made to tables and figures. Recent road schemes have also resulted in tables and symbols being updated (*See Appendix*).

### **Chapter 3: Variable Message Signs**

No change in general, however certain Variable Message Signs have been amended with text relating to their usage being altered (*See Appendix*).

### **Chapter 4: Other Information Signs**

New signage has been introduced for Gaeltacht areas, Emergency Diversion Routes, eTolls, Electric Vehicle Charging, Motorway Service areas, Location Reference Indicators and Greenways and Blueways (*See Appendix*).

### **Chapter 5: Regulatory Signs**

A new 20 km/h speed limit sign has been introduced along with a Regulatory sign for Electric Vehicle Parking. Table 5.10 also updated to include text on Electric Vehicles (*See Appendix*).

### **Chapter 6: Warning Signs**

A number of new Warning Signs have been introduced while others have been updated. Text on both has been added/updated as necessary (*See Appendix*).

### **Chapter 7: Road Markings**

Chapter 7 includes a number of amendments, including revision of widths and spacings associated with Road Markings in line with the revision of safety requirements (*See Appendix*).

### **Chapter 8: Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks**

The traffic signs that are provided by Road Authorities at places where roadworks are being carried out on public roads must, under Section 95 (16) of the 1961 Act, be in conformity with the general and particular directions given by the Minister in Chapter 8 (2019). The directions in Chapter 8 (2019) outline temporary traffic measures to be used at roadworks sites to warn, inform and guide road users safely through or around the works, the circumstances in which roadworks traffic signs and other road traffic signs may be used and guidance on the technical and other standards to be followed when they are being provided.

This chapter has had a substantial update along with the introduction of separate supporting guidelines on:

- (1) Temporary Traffic Management Design;
- (2) Temporary Traffic Management Operations.

These documents provide guidance on planning, implementation, maintenance, modification and removal of Temporary Traffic Management measures at roadworks sites (*See Appendix*).

A Roads Authority, contractors, agents, or authorised person must not use any other format of signs wherever roadworks are being carried out on public roads.

The new Chapter 8 (2019) is published and applicable from the date of this Circular Letter. It supersedes the directions contained in the Chapter 8 (2010) of the Traffic Signs Manual (issued under Circular Letter RST 1/2011). The Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport has given a direction under Section 95 (16) to provide a transition period until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020 beginning from the date of this Circular. During this period Road Authorities are expected to migrate to the application of the revised Chapter 8 (2019) at roadworks sites and to phase out the use of the standards and temporary measures of the superseded Chapter 8 (2010).

The following sets out transition arrangements: -

- The new revised Chapter 8 (2019) will be applicable from the date of this Circular. However a transition period will apply until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020.
- Organisations using Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks may continue to use Chapter 8 (2010) or the provisions in Chapter 8 (2019) on roadworks schemes, but may not combine the provisions of both, for the duration of the transition period.
- After the transition period, organisations are only permitted to continue to apply the Chapter 8 (2010) Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks standard for works that were tendered or underway prior to end of 2019, with the written permission of the Roads Authority and in addition Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for National Roads.

## **Chapter 9**

No change in general.

## **Chapter 10**

This chapter is withdrawn and the material has been incorporated into [www.trafficsigns.ie](http://www.trafficsigns.ie).

## **Regulatory Signs**

The use of new Regulatory Signs must await the making of new Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations, specifically the Traffic (Traffic Signs) Regulations and the Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations. These Regulations are under preparation at present. In that regard specific attention is drawn to the use of the 'Electric Vehicle Parking' symbol and the use of orange lining for roadworks.

The Traffic Signs and Traffic and Parking regulations apply exclusively to Regulatory signs and Regulatory road markings. That is, signs which give effect to Road Traffic regulations. The Regulations do not refer to other categories of road signs, such as Warning Signs and Other Information signs. These signs are the subject of Direction by the Minister under section 95 (16) of the Road Traffic Act, 1961. Accordingly, this Circular, together with the updated Traffic Signs Manual constitute a Direction for the purpose of the provision and use of all Road Traffic Signs referred to in the Manual, other than Regulatory Signs.

## **Warning and Information Signs**

Where certain changes have been made in the updated Manual to Warning and Other Information Signs it is not necessary to replace existing such signs once they are in conformity with the previous versions of the Manual. However, any new signs erected or replaced should conform with the latest version of the Manual.

## **Advice Notes**

In addition, 2 new Advice Notes (copies attached) have been prepared concerning guidance in the use/deployment of: -

- Drive on Left Signs to assist in raising awareness for foreign nationals visiting Ireland
- Emergency Diversion Route Symbols, detailing how to effectively use Emergency Diversion Route Symbols and how to develop said routes.

The updated chapters of the TSM are applicable from the date of issue of this Circular and will be available for download on a chapter by chapter basis from [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie) and [www.trafficsigns.ie](http://www.trafficsigns.ie). Additional Guidelines and Advice Notes are also provided on the websites. Details of revisions and amendments as they arise will also be available on the aforementioned websites.

If you have any queries or require clarification on any aspect of this Circular, please email [tm@dtas.ie](mailto:tm@dtas.ie)

Is mise, le meas,



**John McCarthy**

**Roads Division**

c.c. All Directors of Service, Road and Transportation

c.c. All Senior Engineers, Road and Transportation



## Appendix

### Chapter 2

- Changes made to tables and figures to correct typographical errors.
- English replaced with Irish when referencing places in Gaeltacht areas.
- Terminal Destination tables and figure 2.2.3 updated on account of recent road schemes.
- Cardinal Reference Point symbols introduced (paragraph 2.1.20).

### Chapter 3

- Configuration of sign assembly amended (Figure 3.4).
- Paragraph altered in relation to the use of this sign (paragraph 3.3.9).
- Correct version of sign W 110 added to Figure 3.15.

### Chapter 4

- Corrections made to typographical errors
- Signs for Gaeltacht areas along with symbol T 38 introduced (paragraph 4.2.17)
- Table 4.4.2 directs reader to [www.trafficsigns.ie](http://www.trafficsigns.ie) for Working Drawings in relation to Lane Gain signs.
- Slow zone sign F 403 added (paragraph 4.5.7a)
- Emergency Diversion Route symbols introduced (paragraphs 4.6.14 to 4.6.21)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Symbol introduced. S 70a for motorway service area signs, T 70a for other signs.
- Purple eToll signage now included.
- Authorised Vehicle only sign F 904 corrected
- Location Reference Indicator Sign F 905 introduced (paragraph 4.10.13)
- Greenway and Blueway symbols (T 94 & T 95) introduced.
- All other relevant sign faces in this chapter updated with these symbols.

### Chapter 5

- 20 km/h speed limit sign introduced (paragraph 5.16.8).
- Regulatory sign for Electric Vehicle Parking bays introduced (paragraph 5.17.9).
- Table 5.10 updated to include EV text for Supplementary Plate P 053.
- Appendices 5A and 5B updated.

### Chapter 6

- Figure/Table 6.1 updated to allow use of 450mm Warning sign.
- Sign W 034: Compact Junction sign added.
- Text of paragraphs 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 updated as necessary.
- Concealed entrance added to list of permanent hazards when using sign W 170 and Supplementary Plate P 069.

- Pedestrians and Pedestrian Crossing signage and text revised (paragraphs 6.17.1 and 6.17.2).
- Sign W 140A introduced for use on approaches to uncontrolled pedestrian crossings.
- Sign W 145: Cyclists Dismount introduced.
- Sign W 154: Jaunting cars introduced.
- Sign W 162: Tunnel amended to comply with Vienna convention.
- Drive on Left signage updated. Revised sign W 169 and sign W 169A introduced to act as a repeater.
- Paragraphs 6.21.11 to 6.21.14 have been revised as necessary.

### Chapter 7

- Surfacing joints not to be placed where longitudinal lines are required (paragraph 7.3.7).
- Centreline to be omitted on roads less than 5.0m wide and to be provided on roads greater than 6.0m wide (paragraph 7.3.12).
- Provision of centrelines is optional on roads between 5.0m and 6.0m in width (paragraph 7.3.14).
- Guidance on width of centreline markings is given (paragraph 7.3.13).
- More detailed advise is given on the use of the double line system and on the use of centeline Warning marking.
- Use of Warning centre line in lieu of Continuous centre line permitted on narrow/poorly aligned roads that are low speed, low volume, or carry significant volumes of slow moving traffic (paragraph 7.3.24).
- Breaking of a Continuous Line across a junction (paragraph 7.3.26).
- Amendments to details of markings on climbing lanes (paragraph 7.3.54 et seq)
- Revision of road widths on which edge line to be provided.
- Reference to constraint imposed by necessity to use bi-lingual information has been removed (paragraph 7.5.27).
- Amendments to the text on the use of lane Destination Markings
- Revised Details on Stud Spacings
  - Continuous centreline to have 6m stud spacing.
  - Warning centreline to have 12m spacing generally.
- Clarification on the use of green studs at junctions.
- Revised Requirements outlined for the marking of passing bays (recently introduced in TII Standards). Markings for nearside passing bays removed(no longer in TII Standards). Associated changes to various figures.

### Chapter 8

#### ***Classification of Roadworks Types***

- Revised definitions provided for roadworks types.
  - Defined by traffic flow volume, visibility and works duration.

- Road Level classifications simplified from 6 levels to 3 levels.
  - Level 1 Roads (Urban and Low Speed Roads),
  - Level 2 Roads (Rural Single Carriageway Roads),
  - Level 3 Roads (Dual Carriageways and Motorways).

***New Guidance Provided on Temporary Traffic Management at:***

- Multi-lane,
- Roundabouts,
- Urban Dual Carriageways,
- Climbing/Overtaking lanes,
- Hard Shoulder Running,
- Merges and Diverges,
- Narrow Lane Systems, and
- Mobile Lane Closures.

***New Signs***

- Introduction of square signs (rather than diamond) for certain layouts on Level 3 roads.
- Revised Mobile Lane Closure signs included.
- Narrow lane signage included.
- Roadworks End Sign now cancels all imposed restrictions (with the exception of Roadworks Speed Limit).
- Some Supplementary Plates/Other signs have been amended.

***Minimum Height of Signs***

- Amendments to sign height requirements.

***Stopping Traffic***

- Vehicle actuated temporary traffic signals should now be used.
- 450mm and 600mm diameter Stop and Go discs can now be used.
- Mounting height for the Stop and Go disc is now defined as 1.5m.
- Minimum visibility tables for installation for Stop and Go/Traffic Signals are included.

***Mobile Lane Closures***

- Advance warning vehicle/trailer positions for Mobile Lane Closures changed to:
  - Trailer 1 - 300m;
  - Trailer 2 - 600m, and
  - Trailer 3 - 1km.
- Visibility requirement for each of the trailers and IPV now defined at 500m.
- Alterations to signs for Mobile Lane Closures

