



12th November 2021

RW 23 of 2021

Updates to Chapters 2,3 and 4 of Traffic Signs Manual 2019

Dear Chief Executive/Director of Services/Senior Engineer.

I am directed by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Transport to issue this Circular together with updates for chapter 2, 3 and 4 of the Traffic Signs Manual 2019 (TSM). The TSM constitutes a direction given by the Minister for Transport to Road Authorities under section 95 (16) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 in relation to the provision of traffic signs.

Revised chapters are published/released online only and not as a physical printed document. They are available on <http://www.trafficsigns.ie> from the date of this circular.

A summary of the relevant updates to each chapter are set out below:

Chapter 2: Directional Information Signs

Describes the design rules and their application for directional information signs for use on motorways, national roads, regional roads, and local roads in Ireland.

Changes to this chapter include:

- (a) Table 2.25 has been revised to provide for advance signage for Airports, having regard to parity of signage to international airports around the Country.
- (b) Page 2/24 – Clause 2.2.19 amended (reference to Clause 4.3.27).
- (c) Page 2/26 – Clause 2.2.34 amended to match 4.3.22.
- (d) Page 2/33 – Intermediate junction letter ('a') added to Clause 2.3.24 and Figure 2.3.20.
- (e) Page 2/143 – Figure 2.6.12 amended (dimension errors).
- (f) Department references updated throughout (logos, name, and website address) and publication date set as November 2021.

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Chapter 3: – Variable Message Signs

Provides information on the various types of variable message sign that are available for use on roads in Ireland. It includes signs that consist wholly of variable message elements and those where the variable message forms only part of a larger sign).

Changes in this chapter are primarily as a result of the M50 eMOS Project. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) continue to develop the system of variable speed limits for the M50.

These changes to Chapter 3 are to facilitate the interim display of Cautionary Speeds and associated signage required. There will be further revisions to this chapter required when the mandatory regulatory variable speed limits and associated legislation are implemented. Changes to this chapter include:

- (a) Department references updated throughout (logos, name, and website address) and publication date set as November 2021.
- (b) NRA changed to TII and References to 'the National Roads Authority's Guidelines for the Use of Variable Message Signs on National Roads' has been changed to 'the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Variable Message Signs (VMS) Messaging Guidelines'.
- (c) All permitted variant references updated to include 40 km/h where applicable.
- (d) Page 3/5 – Clause 3.1.6 – 'cautionary speed displays (plates) added to what VMS may be used to display; Variable Speed Limits and Periodic Speed Limits separated in list and last bullet-point reworded to 'Over-height vehicle messaging'.
- (e) Page 3/5 – Clause 3.1.11 – Clause shortened (2nd sentence removed).
- (f) Page 3/9 – RUS 045 – 'Off' state picture removed.
- (g) Page 3/10 – Clause 3.3.13 amended and LCS 100 text and image added.
- (h) Page 3/11 – Clause 3.3.14 updated and reference to 'off state' removed.



- (i) Page 3/11 – Clause 3.3.14 updated to include ‘Cautionary Speeds’ in different lanes.
- (j) Page 3/18 – Clause 3.5.5 removed - numbering left intact
- (k) Page 3/19 – Clause 3.5.20 – Overseeing Organisation clarified.
- (l) Page 3/20 – Clause 3.5.20 amended; Department of Transport changed to Overseeing Organisation to maintain consistency throughout the Manual.
- (m) Page 3/26 – Clause 3.8.8 - white roundel changed to red roundel - Fig 3.17 updated.
- (n) Page 3/26 – Clause 3.8.11 reworded.

From: It is not recommended that Vehicle Activated Signs be deployed unless it is clear that the problem cannot be remedied by improving the fixed signs. Vehicle Activated Signs should be used only sparingly.

To: Before deciding to install or replace Vehicle Activated Signs, it is important to undertake an audit of existing road furniture, fixed signs, road markings and the road condition.

Vehicle Activated Signs, of all types, should not be deployed or used unless it can be shown there is a specific need for the sign that cannot be catered for by using or improving existing traditional fixed signage that is provided for in this Traffic Signs Manual and associated Advice Notes (where applicable). Vehicle Activated Signs must be used sparingly.

Chapter 4: Other Information Signs

Provides details of information signs (other than directional information signs – see Chapter 2) which may be used on roads in Ireland, including their layouts and symbols, the circumstances in which each sign may be used and guidance on positioning them.

This chapter includes the introduction of a new Shared Space Sign as well as a number of other miscellaneous amendments. A Shared Space Sign Advice Note is also prepared and attached to this circular which sets out the specific circumstances which must apply for use of the sign.



Changes to this chapter include:

- (a) Department references updated throughout (logos, name, and website address) and publication date set as November 2021.
- (b) Page 4/11 – Clause 4.2.10 text and figure 4.2.6 dimensions corrected.
- (c) Page 4/14 – Symbol F 01 - brown corrected.
- (d) Page 4/16 – Gaeltacht signs and Clause 4.2.17 updated to allow for signage to be erected with or without the Gaeltacht name.
- (e) Page 4/23 – Hospital Sign – Clause 4.3.22 Warrant changed; To warrant a sign, the hospital should operate an Emergency Department. Hospitals that do not operate Emergency Departments (either 24-hour or part-time) do not warrant signs. (Matched in 2.2.34 Ch. 2).
- (f) Page 4/24 – Airport Repeat changed to Repeater.
- (g) Page 4/24 – 4.3.27 – Text amended.
- (h) Page 4/26 – Figure 4.3.8 corrected (green vehicles as per Chapter 2 2.3.56) and m/way version added.
- (i) Page 4/27 – Customs Officer Symbol (F 22) and Signs (F 262 A, L, R) added.
- (j) Page 4/29 – Sign F 260 – Frame around Garda symbol removed.
- (k) Page 4/29 – Clause 4.3.47 wording updated.
- (l) Pages 4/30, 31, 32 & 33 – F 300 (L & R) (1 > 2 lane gain) added – Clauses updated where necessary and Appendix A updated to match. All other signs in this section renumbered and paired for each situation resulting in renumbering from original numbers F 300-F312 to F 300L and R to F 306L and R. Table 4.4.2 updated.
- (m) Page 4/34 – Signs F 313 and F 314 renumbered as F 307 and F 308 (no L and R option necessary). Clauses updated where necessary. Appendix A updated to match and Table 4.4.2 updated.
- (n) Page 4/41 – Clause 4.5.7a – Slow Zone (F 403): Included reference to Advice Note TSAN 2016-02 – Image updated.



- (o) Page 4/41 – Clause 4.5.9b and Figure 402a added (Average Speed Zones).
- (p) Page 4/41 – 4.5.7b – Shared Space Sign and Clause added (F 404).
- (q) Page 4/43 – Clause 4.5.11 text deleted (numbering unaffected) as the publication referred to has been withdrawn and no suitable alternative now exists.
- (r) Page 4/48 – Fig 4.6.5 moved to right hand side (RHS) column.
- (s) Page 4/49 – Table 4.7.1 – Variants to S 70 and T 70 added. Symbol S 79 added.
- (t) Page 4/59 – Clause 4.7.35 updated to match figure 4.7.21 (allowing 5 symbols as shown).
- (u) Page 4/62 – F60 and F60a borders now match.
- (v) Page 4/71 – Clause 4.10.12 wording updated.
- (w) Page 4/72 – Sign F 904 match with Appendix.
- (x) Page 4/77 – Table 4.11.3 – Variant of T 70 added.
- (y) Page 4/77 – Failte Symbol – Brown corrected.
- (z) Page 4/80 – Figure 4.11.6 corrected.
- (aa) Page 4/81 – Pedestrian Routes – Incorrect pedestrian on Figure 4.11.9 and Sign T 103 Replaced with pedestrian from Symbol T42.
- (bb) Page 4/90 – Signs reordered correctly in Appendix.
- (cc) Page 4/90 – F 206 Bicycle as per RUS 009 inserted.
- (dd) Page 4/92 – F 333 blurry imaged replaced.

The updated chapters of the TSM are applicable from the date of issue of this Circular and are available for view/download on a chapter-by-chapter basis from www.trafficsigns.ie. The Advice Note relating to the Shared Space Sign is also available on the website.



If you have any queries or require clarification on any aspect of this Circular, please email either info@trafficsigns.ie or rlr@transport.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Higher Executive Officer
Engineering Standards Section
Regional and Local Roads Division