



19 December 2024

Circular 5 - RST 05 / 2024

To: -

Chief Executive of each Local Authority
Chief Executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority

Re: - Traffic Signs Manual – Updates December 2024

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Transport to issue this Circular together with updates for the Traffic Signs Manual (TSM) (November) 2024.

The TSM constitutes a direction given by the Minister for Transport to Road Authorities under section 95 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (as amended) 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. Further details are set out in Appendix A.

TRAFFIC SIGNS MANUAL – Interim Version 3 (December 2024)

This update of the Traffic Signs Manual is an interim update from Version 2 to Version 3. The key objectives for these updates to the Manual are as follows: -

- ✓ To support updates in relation to cycling and Bus related measures.
- ✓ To support the new variable speed limits on designated national roads,
- ✓ To support the use of electronic lane control signs,
- ✓ To support signs relating to the revised default rural speed limits following the recent speed limit review in 2023,
- ✓ Incorporation of relevant published legislation amendments,
- ✓ Routine updates, standardisation and formatting of the Manual, and,
- ✓ Amendments to document formatting including new covers.



On a chapter-by-chapter basis, all have been updated except for chapter 2 (Directional Information Signs) and chapter 8 (Temporary Traffic Management at Roadworks). These are: -

<u>Chapter No.</u>	<u>Chapter Title</u>
0	Preface
1	Introduction and Sign Location
3	Variable Message Signs
4	Other Information Signs
5	Regulatory Signs
6	Warning Signs
7	Road Markings
9	Traffic Signals

A summary of the relevant updates is set out in Appendix B.

The updated chapters of the Traffic Signs Manual TSM are applicable from the date of issue of this Circular. They updates supersede by chapter, any existing chapters of the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) and are available on www.gov.ie/transport and www.trafficsigns.ie. Former TSM chapters, 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 websites.

In support of the above, briefings will be scheduled in 2025 for which details will follow.

Finally, should you or your organisation have any queries or wish to register an interest in attendance, please email the department at trafficsigns@transport.gov.ie.

Is mise, le meas,

John McCarthy

Department of Transport

CC: - The Director of Services/Senior Engineer for Roads/Transport/Infrastructure for each City & County Council.



Appendix A



Traffic Signs Manual

The Traffic Signs Manual (TSM) constitutes a direction given by the Minister for Transport to Road Authorities under section 95 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (as amended) 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.

Legal background of The Traffic signs Manual

The legal framework for traffic signage is contained in a number of Acts and Regulations. These include the Road Traffic Acts, the Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations and the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations. The Regulations define the regulatory signs and road markings to be used and the significance to be attached to them. They also set out the mandatory requirements for regulatory signs.

The Traffic Sign Regulations refer only to regulatory signs and not to other categories such as information or warning signs. Those signs are subject of directions by the Minister under Section 95 of the Road Traffic Act 1961.

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 such existing signs so long as they were in conformity with the version of the Manual that was in effect at the time of installation. However, any new signs erected or replaced signs shall conform with the latest version of the Manual.



Appendix B



The following is a summary listing of the main amendments to the Traffic Signs Manual on a chapter-by-chapter basis: -

CHAPTER 0: PREFACE

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Chapter publication dates updated; website address included for reference to approved design standards and guidelines in lieu of specific advice notes.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND SIGN LOCATION

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Chapter publication dates updated; website address included for reference to approved design standards and guidelines in lieu of specific standards or guidance references (this amendment is common to other chapters).
- ✓ Updated text to align with updates in other chapters of the Manual associated with Variable Message Signage.

CHAPTER 3: VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to variable message signage.
- ✓ Relocation of text on Regulatory Signs, Warning Signs, and Traffic Signals for display on VMS to Chapters 5, 6 and 9 respectively.

CHAPTER 4: OTHER INFORMATION SIGNS

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Updated bus lane signage F 322, F 323 and F 324 to reflect a more universal bus symbology.
- ✓ New continuous bus lane signage requirements for F 362, F 363, F 364 and P 064.
- ✓ Updated shared space requirements following DoT Speed Limit Review.



- ✓ New speed camera signage requirements for variable speed limit zones with new signage F 402b for use on motorways and the national road network.
- ✓ New two stage turn sign for cycles under Figure 4.12.11.

CHAPTER 5: REGULATORY SIGNS

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Updated general context and legislative context throughout for key design elements including parking, cycling and bus facilities.
- ✓ Updated speed requirements throughout to reflect urban and rural roads.
- ✓ Updated requirements to reflect elements of the Cycle Design manual.
- ✓ New permitted sign sizes and requirements to reflect urban roads.
- ✓ Amended rural speed limit signage for rural roads.
- ✓ New electronic speed limit signage requirements for RVMS 102 and RUS 045.
- ✓ Updated legislative context in relation to authorised users and vehicle types for cycle tracks to align with the regulations.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to cycle track signage to align with the regulations.
- ✓ New bollard mounted mandatory movement (RUS 001- RUS 008) and cycle track (RUS 009, 058, 059) signage for cycle tracks with specific requirements to promote consistency in application and reduce street clutter to align with the principles of the Cycle Design Manual.
- ✓ Updated requirements for zebra pedestrian crossings.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to bus lane signage to align with the regulations.
- ✓ New general context in relation to access/egress restrictions adjacent to a bus lane. Similarly, updated context for stopping and parking restrictions on bus lanes.
- ✓ New general context in relation to the requirements for bus gate signage.
- ✓ New general context in relation to stopping and parking restrictions on tram lanes.



CHAPTER 6: WARNING SIGNS

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Updated requirements for two-way cycle track warning signage for Sign W 143.
- ✓ Updated requirements for cyclist dismount warning signage for Sign W 145.
- ✓ New pedestrian/cycle crossing warning sign W 146.
- ✓ Requirements for variable message warning signs, including numbering for Warning VMS signs WVMS 101, WVMS 102, WVMS 103, WVMS 104, WVMS 105 and WVMS 106.

CHAPTER 7: ROAD MARKINGS

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to the use of road markings.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to set back stop lines at junctions to facilitate larger vehicle movements.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to the use of Advance Cycle Stop Lines (ASL's) to align with the approach in the Cycle Design Manual.
- ✓ Updated road classification for centre line markings for rural and urban roads.
- ✓ Updated terminology to remove reference to legacy terms such as 'high quality' dual carriageways which are no longer referenced in standards.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to the use of school warden crossings to align with the approach in approved guidelines.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to parking restrictions to align with the regulations.
- ✓ New pavement markings for speed roundels.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to bus stop vehicle tracking and swept path analysis.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to bus lane markings to align with the regulations.



- ✓ New general context in relation to bus gates and virtual bus lanes.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to cycle track markings to align with the regulations.
- ✓ New cycle track markings including: M106C (SLOW) and smaller variants of cycle track direction arrows M 117 (Left), M 118 (Straight Ahead) & M 119 (Right).
- ✓ New general context in relation to access/egress restrictions adjacent to a cycle track. Similarly, updated context for stopping and parking restrictions on cycle tracks.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to yellow box markings to promote improved consistency in their application.
- ✓ Updated use case scenario for RRM 020 Yellow Box Markings for no left turn from the bus lane.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to the application of red studs.
- ✓ New zebra crossing markings for use on cycle tracks (RPC 001B) to align with the regulations.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to markings for traffic calming features.

CHAPTER 9: Traffic Signals

- ✓ Updated cover sheets, general formatting and presentational matters.
- ✓ Updated general context and terminology in relation to traffic signals.
- ✓ Updated general context in relation to the use of cycle signals on cycle tracks to align with the approach in the Cycle Design Manual.
- ✓ Updated requirements for mast arm signals, sighting of traffic signal poles.
- ✓ Updated context in relation to primary, secondary and closely associated secondary signals.
- ✓ Updated context for sighting of low level cycle signals.
- ✓ Updated context in relation to the application of u-turn signals to improve clarity for road users.



- ✓ Updated context in relation to signalised bus gates and virtual bus lanes through the use of signal controlled priority.
- ✓ Updated context in relation to number of signal heads for use in bus lane applications.
- ✓ Requirements for VMS lane control signals
- ✓ New figure and updated requirements in relation to minimum island widths and set back requirements for multiple signal head arrangements.
- ✓ Amendments to example traffic signal layouts in appendices to rationalise signal layouts.



