
**VOLUME 8 TRAFFIC SIGNS AND
LIGHTINGS**
**SECTION 1 TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND
CONTROL EQUIPMENT**

PART 1

TD 07/07

**STATUTORY APPROVAL OF TRAFFIC
CONTROL EQUIPMENT**

SUMMARY

This Technical Direction describes the relationship between the statutory legislation and the Approvals process and introduces the enforcement policy.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1. Remove Contents pages from Volume 8 and insert new Contents pages for Volume 8 dated February 2007.
2. Remove TD 07/80 from Volume 8, Section 1, Part 1 which is superseded by this Standard and archive as appropriate.
3. Insert TD 07/07 into Volume 8, Section 1, Part 1.
4. Please archive this sheet as appropriate.

Note: A quarterly index with a full set of Volume Contents Pages is available separately from The Stationery Office Ltd.



THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY



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**Department for
Regional Development
www.drdni.gov.uk**

**THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
NORTHERN IRELAND**

Statutory Approval of Traffic Control Equipment

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REGISTRATION OF AMENDMENTS

Amend No	Page No	Signature & Date of incorporation of amendments	Amend No	Page No	Signature & Date of incorporation of amendments

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2. The Requirement for Statutory Approval
3. Approval Procedures
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1. INTRODUCTION

General

1.1 The Secretary of State is empowered by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Road Traffic Act 1988, to make regulations and give Directions regarding the placing of traffic signs on or near public roads.

1.2 The Directions require certain signs, signals and illuminated studs (including associated control equipment), to be of a type which is approved in writing by the Secretary of State.

Scope

1.3 This document references legislation that:

- establishes the requirement for ‘Statutory Approval’ herein referred to as Approval;
- empowers the Approval Authority to grant Approval for a type of equipment;
- mandates the Approval Authority to determine Approval requirements;
- defines those parts of traffic control equipment, whose appearance and operation require separate authorisation prior to placement on or near a public road.

1.4 This document supersedes TD 07/80 and the approvals procedures referred to within.

Implementation

1.5 Direction 56 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD), requires that certain signs, signals and illuminated studs (including associated control equipment) placed on all-purpose roads require approval by the Secretary of State.

1.6 Equipment which requires approval prior to placement on the public road is defined by TSRGD, Regulation 56(2).

Definitions

All Purpose Road is any public road, excluding motorways.

Approval Authority is the regional Government Agency/Department responsible for the strategic road network.

Design Authority is the organisation or person responsible for the detailed design of a product to meet the requirements of the National approval specifications or an agreed specification where exceptionally a National Specification does not exist, who accepts all legal liabilities in respect of the product and who makes a self-certified Declaration of Conformity to this effect.

The Act is the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Traffic Sign is any object or device (whether fixed or portable) for conveying, to traffic on roads or any specified class of traffic, warnings, information, requirements, restrictions or prohibitions of any description, hereafter referred to as ‘traffic control equipment’.

TSRGD is the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions applicable in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In Wales it is the Traffic Signs (Welsh and English Language Provisions) Regulations and General Directions.

ZPPRGD is the Zebra, Puffin and Pelican pedestrian crossing Regulations and General Directions.

2. THE REQUIREMENT FOR STATUTORY APPROVAL

2.1 The process by which the Design Authority can apply and obtain Approval for a unique product is described in the Highways Agency Document TRG 0600 – Self-Certification Approval Procedures for Traffic Control Equipment.

2.2 Approvals issued under TRG 0500 remain valid and no retrospective action is required.

2.3 Provisions in the Act are dispensed with in exceptional circumstances for the purposes of trialing new, novel or innovative traffic control equipment used to display traffic signs or signals in a stated location. These exemptions are always limited to a specified period.

2.4 The procedure for Equipment Trials is detailed in TRG 0600.

Authorisation

2.5 Legend, Symbols and Signs that are not prescribed in the TSRGD, may be separately authorised by the Secretary of State under section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

The Approval Authority

2.6 Direction 56 of TSRGD 2002 and Direction 9 of The Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossing Regulations and General Directions 1997 require traffic control equipment to be approved in writing on behalf of Secretary of State before being placed on the public road.

2.7 Approvals are granted by the relevant Approval Authority, which are:

- (a) In England – Safety, Standards and Research Directorate of the Highways Agency;
- (b) In Scotland – The Chief Road Engineer of the Scottish Executive Development Department;
- (c) In Wales – Chief Highways Engineer Welsh Assembly Government;
- (d) In Northern Ireland – Director of Engineering Department of Regional Development, NI.

3. APPROVAL PROCEDURES

Approval on All-Purpose Roads

3.1 The self-certification procedure described in TRG 0600 enables Design Authorities to obtain approval from the Approval Authority.

3.2 The Highways Agency's traffic control equipment performance specifications are listed in MCS 206. This document, together with drawings, instructions, and other related specifications are available from: www.tssplansregistry.org

Approval on Motorways

3.3 Any equipment placed on a Motorway by the Approvals Authority itself is deemed, through its procurement process, to be approved by that authority.

3.4 Any equipment placed on a Motorway by any other party, shall require approval as defined in TRG 0600.

Enforcement Introduction

3.5 The Self-Certification Approval procedures defined in TRG 0600 have been introduced to align the Approval of traffic control equipment with the current aims of the Highways Agency and the modernisation of government. These aims empower the Design Authority to be totally responsible for their product, remove liability from the Secretary of State, align the Approval procedures with quality management systems adopted by Design Authorities/industry, and to make them fully compliant with European Directives.

3.6 TRG 0600 no longer requires the Highways Agency to enter into a technical dialogue with equipment suppliers in order to agree the specific testing of equipment submitted for Approval based upon the specific technology used. The self-certification procedures enable Design Authorities to self-certify that their products are 'fit for purpose', meeting equipment standards and specifications as defined by the Highways Agency on behalf of the UK Government.

Enforcement Policy

3.7 The Highways Agency will maintain the integrity of the Approval procedures through enforcement of the Road Traffic Regulation Act and The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions.

3.8 Any design authority contravening the above legislation is liable to prosecution.

Disclosure

3.9 It is the responsibility of all Highway Authorities to only procure approved Traffic Control Equipment and only use it in a manner for which it is approved. It is the responsibility of suppliers to ensure that all products offered for sale or hire, satisfy all the technical and safety requirements as defined by the Approvals Authority. Products shall be approved before they are placed on the public road.

3.10 **Note:** Where it becomes suspected that either of the above has been violated an infringement disclosure should be reported to the Approvals Authority.

Investigation

3.11 Following receipt of a disclosure the Approval Authority or a nominated agent will carry out an investigation to determine the precise cause and effect of the infringement.

3.12 The investigation will primarily focus on the safety issues of approved products or any complicity associated with the procurement and deployment of unapproved products.

3.13 The Approvals Authority will advise that the Highways Authority is liable for the consequences arising from inappropriate deployment of equipment once they have been informed of the infringement while the equipment remains in operation.

Infringement Determinations

3.14 The investigating body will be responsible for infringement determinations. Whether there is any malicious intent on behalf of a Design Authority submitting a fraudulent declaration of conformity or simple negligence on behalf of a Highways Authority deploying an unapproved product.

Enforcement Body

3.15 The Highways Agency will act as the lead enforcement body for all disclosed infringements of the Approval Procedures. The Highways Agency will complete the enforcement action once an investigation has established that a genuine infringement exists.

3.16 The Highways Agency's decision with regard to any issue in a particular case, including a decision that no enforcement action is taken, will be final. This provision does not preclude the Highways Agency from referring the matter to another organisation.

Enforcement Response

3.17 The Approval Authority will determine the appropriate enforcement response taking into consideration any views provided by another organisation.

Resolution

3.18 The Highways Agency will determine when an infringement is resolved and notify parties previously advised. In addition, the Approval Authority will make arrangements, when required, for appropriate monitoring to ensure that the corrective action is undertaken and completed in accordance with the resolution or previously agreed actions.

4. ENQUIRIES

All technical enquiries or comments on this Standard should be sent in writing as appropriate to:

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