Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing

Contents

Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing ...........................................2
Signing speed limits........................................................................................................3
Signing Safety Cameras.................................................................................................5
Diagrams for use at camera sites ..................................................................................7
Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing

This note provides guidance on speed limit and safety camera signing and is designed to ensure correct and consistent signing across the country. It does not replace or update the legal requirements of The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2002 but should be considered as best practice.

Highway Authorities have a statutory duty to provide and maintain traffic signs, and as a key partner in Safety Camera Partnerships are asked to ensure that:

- Signing is lawful and complies with the statutory requirements prescribed in TSRGD and also with guidance in the Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales 2006/07.

- Any signs not prescribed by TSRGD have been given Special Authorisation by the Department or Government Office for the Regions.

- Terminal speed limit signs are lit when so required by regulation 18 of TSRGD.

- Signing is clear and visible so that drivers are aware of the speed limit in force and that speed camera enforcement is taking place.

- Signing is kept to a minimum to avoid undue clutter and environmental impact whilst meeting the requirements above.

  * A few correctly placed and well-maintained signs are better for drivers and the environment than lots of not so well-placed signs

- Signs are orderly and maintained in good condition.

- Providing good information to drivers and having minimal environmental impact

- Signs are regularly checked for alignment, cleanliness, illumination where required and that they are not obscured e.g. by foliage or other signs.

The information contained in this document will already be familiar to you from TSRGD and the Handbook. This is intended as an aide memoire only, and in no circumstances should it be used as a substitute for independent legal advice on your particular circumstances. All relevant regulations, directions and schedules in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (as amended) must be complied with.

Non compliance with speed limit signing requirements may mean that the speed limit is unenforceable.
Signing speed limits

Speed limit signing requirements are set out in The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2002. These are statutory requirements, not guidance. Best practice advice on speed limit signing and appropriate sign sizes is also set out in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/95. It is strongly recommended that the size of terminal signs and the size and spacing of speed limit repeater signs should follow the guidance in 1/95.

- Changes in speed limits must be identified by the use of a terminal speed limit sign on each side of the carriageway. Exceptions are; where traffic turns into a side road, when the minimum requirement is for one sign on the near side; and where traffic emerges from a side road onto a road with a higher limit where, (unless the higher limit is the national speed limit), no terminal signs are needed provided repeater signs are erected on the main road not more than 100 metres from the junction. If the higher limit is the national speed limit, a terminal sign is required on each side of the carriageway.

- On 30 mph street-lit roads (roads with a system of carriageway lighting with lamps placed not more than 183 metres apart) signs to diagram 670 are permitted at the beginning of the restriction only and must be placed on each side of the carriageway as close as practicable to the first street lamp. Where traffic becomes subject to a 30mph restriction when it turns into a side road, then the minimum requirement is one sign on the near side, as explained above. The General Directions in TSRGD strictly prohibit the use of repeater speed limit signs on these roads (Direction 11(4) (a)).

- On 30 mph unlit roads - terminal speed limit signs to diagram 670 must be placed on each side of the carriageway at the beginning of the restriction (with the same exception described above) and smaller repeater signs to diagram 670 must be placed at regular intervals along the route.

On 40 mph and 50 mph roads, and 60mph dual carriageway roads - terminal speed limit signs to diagram 670 must be placed on each side of the carriageway at the beginning of the restriction and smaller repeater signs to diagram 670 must be placed at regular intervals along the route.

- On 60 mph single carriageway roads and 70 mph dual carriageway roads where there is no street lighting, signs to diagram 671 must be used on each side of the carriageway at the point where the national limit begins. On roads that have a system of carriageway lighting with lamps placed not more than 183 metres apart, signs to diagram 671 must also be placed at regular intervals along the route.

- Where an unrestricted unlit road becomes lit and thereby subject to a 30mph restriction, 30mph speed limit signs must be provided on each side of the carriageway as close as practicable to the first street lamp. If some other speed limit is imposed, these signs too must be sited as close as practicable to the first street lamp.

- Where an unrestricted unlit road becomes lit, but the road is to remain unrestricted, repeater signs to diagram 671 must be provided, commencing at the first lamp column. As there is no change in the speed limit at this point, it is not appropriate or lawful to place a terminal speed limit sign on each side of the road.
Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing
Signing Safety Cameras


Ministers have made a commitment that enforcement within the National Safety Camera Programme will be highly visible and drivers will be made fully aware of the presence of safety cameras. The camera and speed limit signs must be clearly visible to drivers and not obscured by other street furniture or hanging branches etc. Ministers want drivers to be fully aware of the speed limit at all times, but especially where camera enforcement takes place. The Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales 2006/07 required that from end June 2006 the speed limit and camera warning signs should be co-located where permitted and practicable, and also that for fixed cameras this must allow the speed limit sign and camera sign to be visible to the driver in the same view as the camera.

The Handbook of Rules and Guidance for the National Safety Camera Programme 2006/07:

Rule 3: Signing rules

Camera signs will be co-located with speed limit signs where permitted and practicable.

For fixed speed and red-light enforcement, a camera sign must be placed not more than 1 km from the first camera housing in the direction being enforced (including or excluding side roads at the discretion of the partnership). For fixed speed enforcement, co-located camera and speed limit repeater signs, or the sign shown in diagram 880 where appropriate, must be placed to allow the signs and speed camera to be visible to the driver in the same view.

For mobile enforcement, co-located camera and speed limit repeater signs, or a sign to diagram 880 where appropriate, must be placed in advance of the point of entry to the site or route (including or excluding side roads at the discretion of the partnership) in the direction being enforced. Camera signs must also be placed thereafter at intervals of around 1 km throughout the site.

Co-locating signs

When co-locating camera signs to diagram 878 or 879 with a speed limit sign to diagram 670 or 671 -

- The two signs may be located individually on the same post, with the speed limit sign above the camera sign
- They may be co-located on a rectangular yellow or grey backing board with the speed limit sign above the camera sign - the backing board must not have a border as this is not permitted by TSRGD (see also Chapter 7 of the Traffic Signs Manual 2003, paras 14.19 - 14.24).
- They may be located near each other on different posts, so long as they are on the same side of the carriageway and both can be seen in the same view as the fixed camera by the driver.

So to summarise:

Where permitted by TSRGD, and practicable:
Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing

For fixed cameras

- there should be a co-located speed limit and camera sign (diagrams 670/671 with 878/879) not more than 1 km from the camera; and
- there should be a co-located speed limit and camera sign within the same view as the camera (diagrams 670/671 with 878/879, or diagram 880/880.1*).

* note that only one diagram 880/880.1 can be used on each approach to the site (TSRGD Direction 32(2))

For mobile cameras

- there should be a co-located speed limit and camera sign in advance of the point of entry to the site or route (diagrams 878/879 with 670/671, or diagram 880/880.1);
- there should be camera signs at regular intervals of around 1 km throughout the site or route; and
- these camera signs should be co-located with the regularly spaced speed limit repeater signs throughout the site.

Normally diagram 878 would be used as the first camera sign; subsequent repeater camera warning signs would be to diagram 879.
# Diagrams for use at camera sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagram 880</th>
<th>Diagram 878</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed camera ahead and reminder of 30 mph speed limit</td>
<td>Area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic signal regulations and/or speed cameras. The legend may be varied only as specified in the table accompanying the diagram in TSRGD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Diagram 880" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Diagram 878" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May be placed on a road where there is provided a system of carriageway lighting and the speed limit is 30mph (see TSRGD Direction 32(2))</td>
<td>(Diagram 878.1) Average speed check - for use on roads where time over distance cameras are in operation (subject to Special Authorisation by DfT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Diagram 829.5
May be used in an area where police carry out checks on the speed of vehicles. The sign may be placed on or near a road only by a constable in uniform or a person acting under the instructions or authority of the chief officer of police. May be placed only on or near a road in an area where police speed checks are from time to time carried out.

## Diagram 879
Reminder to drivers within an area in which cameras are used to enforce traffic regulations

May be co-located with diagrams 670/671 with the speed limit sign above the camera sign. May be placed only in an area or along a route where enforcement cameras are from time to time in use.

The first camera warning sign must be placed not more than 1 km from the first camera housing in the direction being enforced (Handbook of Rules and Guidance).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagram 670</th>
<th>Diagram 671</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum speed limit in miles per hour</td>
<td>National speed limits apply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40</th>
<th>National speed limits sign can be co-located with diagrams 879 or 878 (except as a repeater on unlit roads).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speed limit sign can be co-located with diagrams 879 or 878.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Co-located signs
Aide Memoire on Speed Limit and Safety Camera Signing

**Sign to diagram 880**

Used only on roads where there is a system of carriageway lighting and the speed limit is 30 mph

**Signs to diagram 670 speed limit repeater sign with diagram 879 safety camera warning sign co-located**

Mounted on a yellow or grey rectangular backing board. The backing board must not have a boarder.

Speed limit above the camera sign

**Signs to diagram 670 and 879 signs co-located separately on a post**

Speed limit above the camera sign