



Quick guide to temporary white on red signs at road and street works

Introduction

The purpose of this Traffic Advisory Leaflet is to assist practitioners who need temporary white (legend) on red (background) signs for certain situations at road or street works.

Schedule 12 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002¹ (TSRGD) (as amended) prescribes a number of miscellaneous warning, informatory and regulatory white on red signs for use at road and street works on the non-motorway network. The table below shows most of the legends prescribed there although it may not include every possible permitted combination. Note that where legends include distances, these can be varied by virtue of Schedule 16. Working drawings² illustrating the detailed layout of these signs and their permitted variants can be found in the P7000 series of working drawings, available free of charge on the Department's website.

Diagram	Permitted variants prescribed in Schedule 12
7001.3	WORKFORCE IN ROAD SLOW SETTING OUT ROAD WORKS AHEAD
7010.1	SLOW WET TAR ADVERSE CAMBER RAMP AHEAD ROAD AHEAD CLOSED ROAD CLOSED TEMPORARY ROAD SURFACE TRAFFIC CONTROL AHEAD TRAFFIC SIGN MAINTENANCE TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE WORK IN CENTRE OF ROAD
7011	WHEN RED LIGHT SHOWS WAIT HERE WHEN STOP SIGN SHOWS WAIT HERE
7011.1	3-WAY CONTROL WAIT HERE UNTIL GREEN LIGHT SHOWS
7011.2	PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WHEN RED LIGHT SHOWS WAIT HERE

Diagram	Permitted variants prescribed in Schedule 12
7012	NO ROAD MARKINGS FOR 2 MILES NO GIVE WAY MARKINGS NO STOP MARKINGS NO ROAD MARKINGS NO ROAD MARKINGS AT JUNCTION NO ROAD MARKINGS AT LEVEL CROSSING NO ROAD STUDS FOR 2 MILES
7013	RAMP
7014.1	BRIDGE HEADROOM REDUCED TO [height in imperial and metric]
7015	NO HARD SHOULDER FOR 400 YARDS
7016	CROSSING NOT IN USE
7017	PEDESTRIANS LOOK LEFT PEDESTRIANS LOOK RIGHT PEDESTRIANS LOOK BOTH WAYS
7018	PEDESTRIANS [arrow symbol] PEDESTRIANS USE OTHER FOOTWAY
7018.1	CYCLISTS DISMOUNT AND USE FOOTWAY
7020	SIGN NOT IN USE (use sparingly) SIGNAL NOT IN USE SIGN UNDER TEST SIGNAL UNDER TEST
7021	[arrow symbol(s)] TRAFFIC UNDER SIGNAL CONTROL
7022	JOINING TRAFFIC NOT SIGNAL CONTROLLED
7025	CONVOY SYSTEM IN OPERATION AHEAD
7026	CONVOY SYSTEM TO PROTECT WORKFORCE
7027	WHEN RED LIGHT SHOWS WAIT HERE FOR CONVOY VEHICLE WHEN STOP SIGN SHOWS WAIT HERE FOR CONVOY VEHICLE
7028	WHEN GREEN LIGHT SHOWS FOLLOW CONVOY VEHICLE AT TRAFFIC CONTROL FOLLOW CONVOY VEHICLE
7029	CONVOY VEHICLE NO OVERTAKING CONVOY VEHICLE
7301	WORKS ACCESS WORKS TRAFFIC ONLY NO WORKS TRAFFIC
7302	WORKS EXIT
7303	WORKS TRAFFIC [arrow symbol]
7304	WORKS TRAFFIC (advance direction sign)
7305	WORKS TRAFFIC (direction sign)
7306	WORKS ACCESS ONLY 100 yds (map type sign)
7307	WORKS TRAFFIC MERGING 200 yds

Temporary white on red signs can only be placed on or near a road for the purpose of conveying to traffic warnings about, or information on how to avoid, any temporary hazards caused by works being executed on or near a road.

For situations that require temporary white on red signs not prescribed in Schedule 12 of the TSRGD, regulation 53 allows practitioners to create signs with legends tailored to the particular circumstances, subject to certain conditions. However, before creating a new sign, practitioners should first check Schedule 12 to see if a suitable sign already exists. In all cases, retroreflective sheeting must be used for both the red background and the white border and legend, in accordance with regulation 19(3). Unreflectorised signs are unlawful and difficult to read at night.

Basic steps to designing a temporary white on red sign

1. Keep the legend as succinct as possible - rearrange the text if necessary to keep it short. This makes it easier for road users to take the information in quickly and so minimises the time spent reading the sign. Short legends also lead to smaller signs which, in turn, offer handling and cost advantages.
2. Use capital letters in general, but use lower case for abbreviated terms. For example, "YARDS" should be in upper case while "yds" should be in lower case.
3. Where the sign provides information followed by an instruction or a further piece of information, increase the line spacing between these two elements. For example, on the TEMPORARY FOOTWAY CLOSURE PEDESTRIANS WAIT HERE sign (see figure 2), note the increased vertical gap between "CLOSURE" and "PEDESTRIANS".
4. The height of the legend (in capitals) can range from 40mm to 350mm. Arrows can range from 250mm to 1000mm long. For an indication of the appropriate arrow size, look at prescribed signs that contain arrows (such as diagrams 7018, 7021 and 7303).
5. Use a larger letter height for key words. For example, in the prescribed sign to diagram 7022 JOINING TRAFFIC NOT SIGNAL CONTROLLED, "NOT" is larger than the rest of the legend.
6. Avoid long signs by placing the legend on a number of lines, but aim to have no more than five lines.



Figure 1 Example of a sign that can be created under regulation 53 showing several of the basic design features mentioned above.



Figure 2 Some examples of signs allowed under regulation 53.

References

1. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/3113/made>
2. Traffic Signs Working Drawings <https://www.gov.uk/working-drawings-for-traffic-signs>

Recommended further reading

- Traffic Signs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations and General Directions 2011 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/3041/contents/made>
- The Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8 (part 1) Road Works and Temporary Situations - Design. TSO (DfT 2009). https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/203669/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-08-part-01.pdf
- The Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8 (part 2) Road Works and Temporary Situations - Operations. TSO (DfT 2009). https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/203670/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-08-part-02.pdf
- Safety at Street Works and Road Works: A Code of Practice. TSO (DfT 2013). https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/243997/safety-at-streetworks-tagged.pdf
- An Introduction to the Use of Portable Vehicular Signals. TSO (DfT 2008). https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263755/introduction-use-portable-vehicular-signals.pdf
- Know Your Traffic Signs. TSO (DfT 2007). https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/222621/dg_191955.pdf

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