

**To: Each County/City Manager**

28 January 2011

Circular RST 01/2011

**Direction given to road authorities by the Minister for Transport under section 95(16) of the Road Traffic Act 1961:  
Traffic Signs Manual (2010)**

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I am directed by Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport to issue this Circular Letter together with a copy of the new Traffic Signs Manual (2010) which 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, other than regulatory signs.

The Traffic Signs Manual (2010) has been produced by the Department of Transport together with the technical assistance of the National Roads Authority, the County and City Managers' Association and Roughan & O'Donovan – AECOM consulting engineers and supersedes the old Traffic Signs Manual 1996 as published by the Department of the Environment.

**Traffic Signs Manual (2010) format**

The new Manual is presented in two volumes. Volume 1 contains Chapters 1 through 5 and Volume 2 contains chapters 6 through 10. The title and sequence of the chapters are similar to the Traffic Signs Manual (1996) with minor adjustment. The new layout is as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and Sign Location
- Chapter 2: Directional Information Signs
- Chapter 3: Variable Message Signs
- Chapter 4: Other Information Signs
- Chapter 5: Regulatory Signs
- Chapter 6: Warning Signs
- Chapter 7: Road Markings
- Chapter 8: Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks
- Chapter 9: Traffic Signals
- Chapter 10: Typical Applications for Traffic Signs and Road Markings

The content of each of the chapters have been substantially updated to reflect the progress and advancement of our Road Traffic Signs and our road network since the previous Traffic Signs Manual (1996).

## **Chapter 8**

Although Chapter 8 was updated independently of the other chapters in 2008 (issued under Circular Letter RST 3/2008), the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) contains minor amendments to the 2008 Chapter 8. For convenience, a summary of changes between the 2008 Chapter 8 and the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) Chapter 8 are contained in the attached 'Addendum to the Department of Transport Chapter 8'. In addition a Chapter 8 addendum pack is also available on the Department of Transport website [www.transport.ie](http://www.transport.ie) to enable easy updating of existing 2008 chapters 8.

### **Regulatory Signs**

The use of new regulatory signs must await the making of new Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations. Specifically the Traffic (Traffic Signs) Regulations and the Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations. These Regulations are under preparation at present.

The Traffic Signs and Traffic and Parking regulations apply exclusively to Regulatory signs and Regulatory road markings. That is, signs which give effect to Road Traffic regulations. The Regulations do not refer to other categories of road signs, such as Warning Signs and Other Information signs. These signs are the subject of direction by the Minister under section 95(16) of the Road Traffic Act, 1961. Accordingly, this Circular, together with the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) constitute a direction for the purpose of the provision and use of all Road Traffic Signs referred to in the Manual, other than Regulatory Signs.

### **Specific Regulatory Signs requiring particular attention**

#### *(1) Weight Restriction Sign, RUS 015 (Chapter 5)*

There is a fundamental difference introduced in the new Manual between the meaning of the old RUS 015 Weight Restriction Sign and the new RUS 015 Maximum Gross Weight (Traffic Management) Sign. The previous RUS 015 referred to the unladen weight of vehicles. The new RUS 015 refers to the design gross vehicle weight and gives a range of gross weights that can be signed depending on the particular weight restriction to be put in place.

The new RUS 015 Maximum Gross Weight (Traffic Management) Sign should therefore not be implemented by road authorities until firstly the regulations are completed and secondly there is a date agreed for the replacement of all existing Weight Restriction Signs with new Maximum Gross Weight (Traffic Management) Signs.

#### *(2) No Entry Sign, RUS 050 (Chapter 5)*

The new No Entry sign RUS 050 indicates that no vehicle may pass beyond the location of the sign. It is to be used in situations where there are no stated exceptions. The old No Entry sign RUS 011 has been modified to prohibit straight ahead movements where exhibitions to the prohibition apply and shall only now be used in conjunction with a supplementary plate indicating the exceptions to the prohibition.

Similar to the Maximum Gross Weight sign above, the new No Entry sign RUS 050 should therefore not be erected by road authorities until the regulations are completed.

### **Warning and Information Signs**

Where certain changes have been made in the new Manual to Warning and Other Information Signs it is not necessary to replace existing such signs once they are in conformity with the 1996 Manual. However, any new signs erected or replaced should conform with the 2010 Manual.

### **Publication and availability of the new Traffic Signs Manual (2010)**

The new Traffic Signs Manual (2010) is published and applicable from the date of this Circular Letter. Additional hardcopies are available to purchase from NRA Publications, National Roads Authority, St. Martins House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4. Arrangements for ordering copies can be

made with the Publications Section by telephone at (01) 660 2511. The price is €100 plus postage and packaging for the full Manual.

The Traffic Signs Manual (2010) is also available on the Department of Transport website, [www.transport.ie](http://www.transport.ie) where each chapter can be downloaded individually. Details of the dimensioned working drawings will also be available on the website. It is not proposed to publish and issue these working drawings in a separate hardcopy format.

This edition of the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) is dated November 2010 and this date is marked on the bottom of each page. This identification of the print edition will facilitate any future revisions to the Traffic Signs Manual as amendments can be printed on a page by page basis showing the new print date and substituted in the ring binders, thus allowing for ready identification as to which print edition is being referred to. Details of revisions and amendments as they arise will also be available on the Department of Transport website.

If you have any queries or require clarification on any aspect please contact the Road Safety Division of the Department of Transport by email at [roadsafety@transport.ie](mailto:roadsafety@transport.ie) with reference to the Traffic Signs Manual or by telephone (01) 670 7444.

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**David O'Grady**  
**Engineering Inspector**  
**Road Safety Division**