

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Road Traffic (Traffic Control) (Amendment) Regulation 2001

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of section 11 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) and subsection 28(1)(c) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1), the Secretary for Transport is empowered to make and amend the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374, sub. leg. G).

2. In exercise of this power, the Secretary for Transport has made the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) (Amendment) Regulation 2001 at **Annex A**.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

3. Review of the design standards and applications of traffic signs and road markings is an on-going process. During a recent review of traffic signs and road markings, the Government has identified a number of existing traffic signs that require revisions to facilitate traffic management or improvements by simplifying their designs and enhancing their readability to assist the motoring public.

4. Schedule 1 to Cap. 374, sub. leg. G contains figures of regulatory, warning and informatory signs, and supplementary plates prescribed in those Regulations. Beneath each sign/supplementary plate is a note explaining its meaning. It is also stipulated in the note of each sign, where applicable, combination of plate(s) which may be used in conjunction with that particular sign. Similarly, in the note of the relevant supplementary plate there is a corresponding description of the compatible main sign.

5. We propose to amend Schedule 1 by adding the revised designs of “No-stopping Restriction Zone” and “Bus Only Lane” signs and their variations. These are existing regulatory traffic signs, which have been identified for improvement by redesigning their sign faces for better readability and aesthetic appearance.

6. We also propose to amend some main traffic signs and supplementary plates, and amend the notes to these signs and supplementary plates, so as to allow the necessary sign/supplementary plate combinations for traffic management purposes.

7. “Taxi” is a class of vehicle stipulated in the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap 374). However, the terms of “Urban taxi”, “N T taxi” and “Lantau taxi” are not defined in the Road Traffic Ordinance or Cap. 374, sub. leg. G. The opportunity is taken in this legislative amendment to define clearly the three kinds of taxi under “Regulation 2 - Interpretation” of Cap. 374, sub. leg. G to facilitate flexibility in implementing traffic control measures to a particular kind of taxi.

AMENDMENT REGULATION

8. The Amendment Regulation is to:

- (a) add the definitions of “Lantau taxi”, “N T taxi” and “Urban taxi”;
- (b) specify the signs or plates that could be used in conjunction with other signs and plates in Schedule 1; and
- (c) specify further traffic signs in Schedule 1.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

9. The proposed amendments were presented to the Transport Advisory Committee and circulated to the Legislative Council Panel on Transport on 19 September and 24 November 2000 respectively. There were no objections to the proposals.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

10. The Department of Justice advises that the Amendment Regulation has no human rights implications.

BASIC LAW IMPLICATIONS

11. The Department of Justice advises that the Amendment Regulation is consistent with the Basic Law.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no financial and staffing implications.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no economic implications.

LEGISLATIVE TIME TABLE

14. The Amendment Regulation will come into effect on 1 July 2001.

PUBLICITY

15. The Amendment Regulation will be gazetted on 27 April 2001.

ENQUIRIES

16. Any enquiries regarding this brief should be directed to the following officer:

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Transport Bureau
April 2001
(TRAN 3/11/67)

**ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) (AMENDMENT)
REGULATION 2001**

(Made under section 11 of the Road Traffic
Ordinance (Cap. 374))

1. Commencement

This Regulation shall come into operation on 1 July 2001.

2. Interpretation

Regulation 2(1) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg.) is amended by adding -

"Lantau taxi" (大嶼山的士) means a taxi that is licensed to be available for hire or to carry passengers within the permitted area as specified in paragraph 2 of Schedule 7 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg.);

"N T taxi" (新界的士) means a taxi that is licensed to be available for hire or to carry passengers within the permitted area as specified in paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg.);

"Urban taxi" (市區的士) means a taxi but does not include a Lantau taxi or an N T taxi;"

3. Bus lane

Regulation 12(4) is amended, in the definition of "permitted user", by repealing "or 119" and substituting ", 119 or 164".

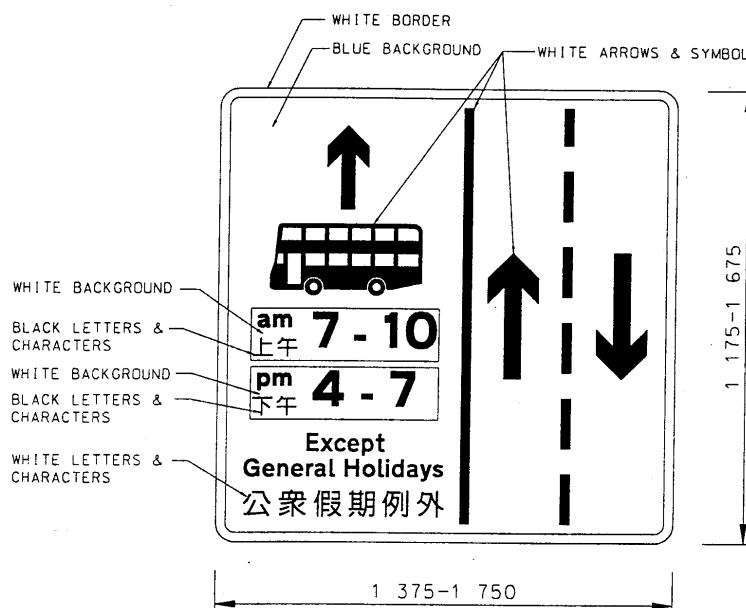
4. Traffic signs

Schedule 1 is amended -

- (a) in Figure No. 106, in the note, by repealing "402, 403" and substituting "401, 402, 403, 427, 431, 432";
- (b) in Figure No. 107, in the note, by repealing "402, 403, 409" and substituting "401, 402, 403, 409, 427, 431, 432";
- (c) in Figure No. 109, in the note, by repealing "402, 403, 409" and substituting "401, 402, 403, 409, 427, 431, 432";
- (d) in Figure No. 113, in the note, by repealing "429" and substituting "427, 429, 431, 432";
- (e) in Figure No. 122, in the note, by repealing "403, 406" and substituting "401, 403, 406, 427, 431, 432";
- (f) by adding -

"REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 164



ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT
FRANCHISED BUSES PROHIBITED
FROM USING NEARSIDE LANE

THE OPERATION TIME PERIOD MAY BE VARIED TO SPECIFY ANY PERIODS OF TIME OR TIMES OR IN 24-HOUR TIME DISPLAY WITHOUT THE WORDS "am" AND "上午" AND/OR "pm" AND "下午" AND TO SPECIFY ANY DAY OR DAYS. "EXCEPT GENERAL HOLIDAYS" AND "公眾假期例外" MAY BE DELETED FOR OPERATION ON ALL DAYS.

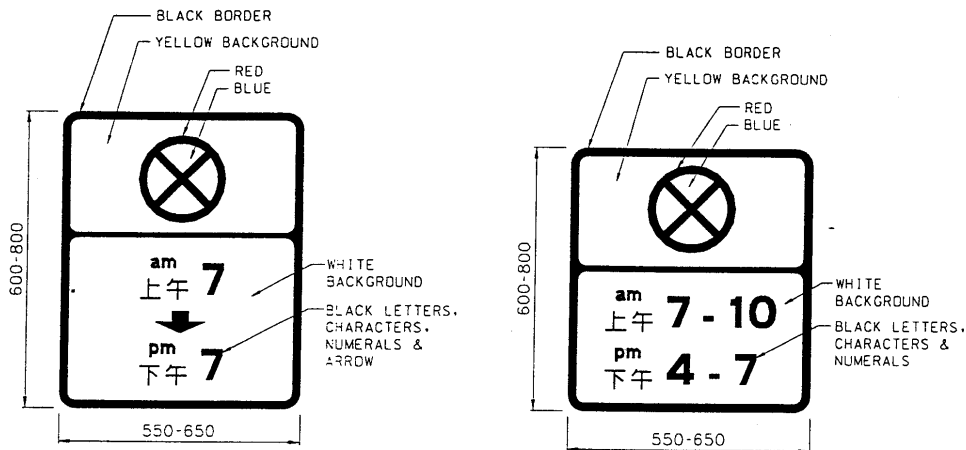
THE NUMBER AND DIRECTION OF ARROWS MAY BE ALTERED TO SUIT THE NUMBER OF LANES AVAILABLE.

THE SIGN MAY BE VARIED TO INDICATE THAT MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE CENTRE OR OFFSIDE LANE.

WHERE OTHER BUSES ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE LANE IN ADDITION TO FRANCHISED BUSES, THE SYMBOL IN THE ABOVE SIGN SHALL BE REPLACED BY "BUS 巴士".

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 165



"NO STOPPING" ZONE

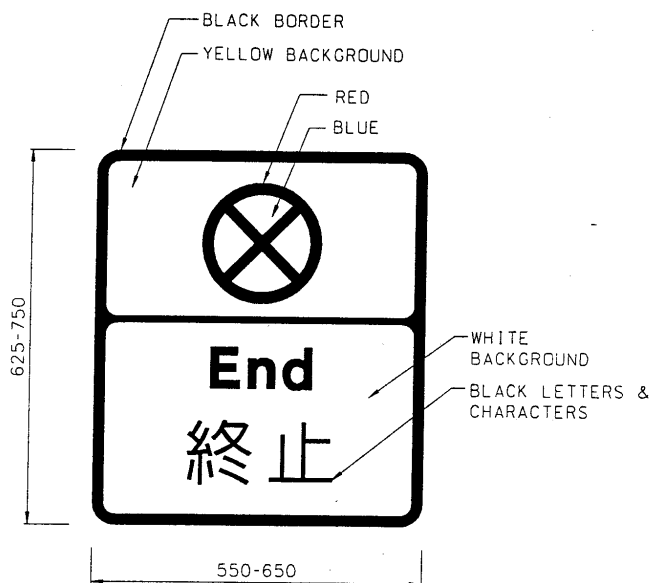
THIS SIGN SHALL BE ERECTED FACING ONCOMING VEHICLES TO INDICATE THE START OF A NO STOPPING ZONE WHERE RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING FOR ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AT DESIGNATED BUS STOPS APPLY. THE TIMES MAY BE VARIED TO SPECIFY ANY PERIODS OF TIME OR TIMES OR IN 24-HOUR TIME DISPLAY WITHOUT THE WORDS "am" AND "上午" AND/OR "pm" AND "下午".

YELLOW BACKGROUND IN THE UPPER PART OF THE SIGN MAY BE VARIED TO WHITE FOR USE AT INTERVALS ALONG THE ROUTE AS REMINDERS OF THE RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE.

THE SIGN MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLATES IN FIGURE Nos. 429, 430.

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 166

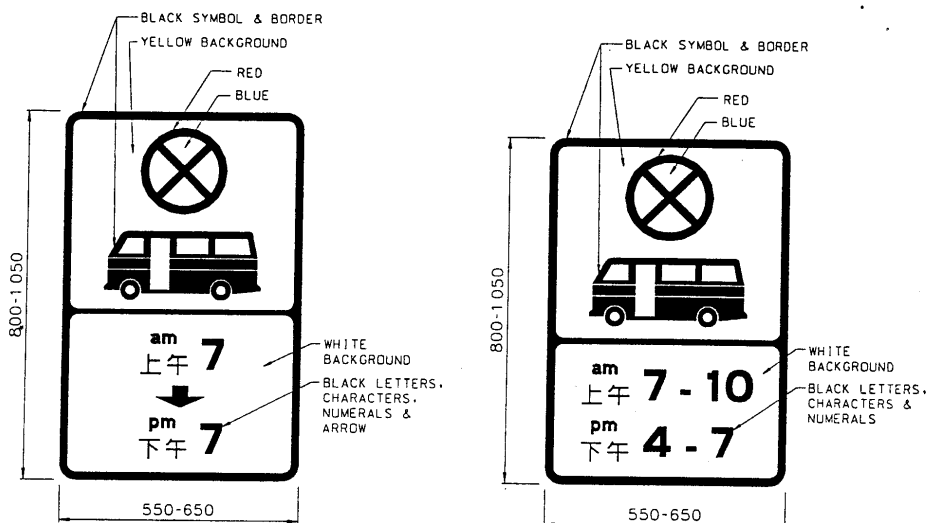


"NO STOPPING" ZONE END

THIS SIGN SHALL BE ERECTED FACING ONCOMING VEHICLES TO INDICATE THE END OF THE NO STOPPING ZONE.

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 167



PUBLIC LIGHT BUS "NO STOPPING" ZONE

THIS SIGN INDICATES THE START OF A ZONE WHERE THE STOPPING OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IS PROHIBITED UNLESS THE VEHICLE IS PREVENTED FROM PROCEEDING DUE TO TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

THE TIMES MAY BE VARIED TO SUIT ANY PERIODS OF TIME OR TIMES OR IN 24-HOUR TIME DISPLAY WITHOUT THE WORDS "am" AND "上午" AND/OR "pm" AND "下午".

THE SIGN SHALL BE ERECTED FACING ONCOMING VEHICLES TO INDICATE THE START OF THE RESTRICTION.

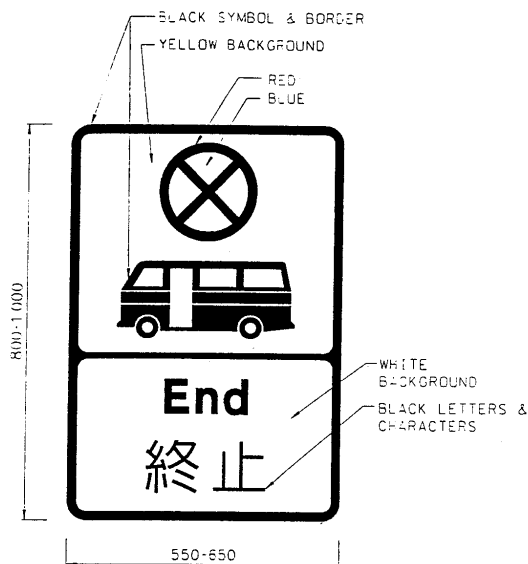
YELLOW BACKGROUND IN THE UPPER PART OF THE SIGN MAY BE VARIED TO WHITE FOR USE AT INTERVALS ALONG THE ROUTE AS REMINDERS OF THE RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE.

THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SYMBOL MAY BE VARIED TO THE BUS SYMBOL SHOWN IN FIGURE No. 115 OR THE GOODS VEHICLE SYMBOL SHOWN IN FIGURE No. 117 TO INDICATE THE START OF NO STOPPING ZONE FOR BUSES OR GOODS VEHICLES RESPECTIVELY.

THE SIGN MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY
PLATE IN FIGURE No. 429.

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 168



END OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUS "NO STOPPING" ZONE

THIS SIGN SHALL BE ERECTED FACING ONCOMING VEHICLES TO INDICATE THE END OF A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS "NO STOPPING" ZONE.

THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SYMBOL MAY BE VARIED TO THE BUS SYMBOL SHOWN IN FIGURE No. 115 OR THE GOODS VEHICLE SYMBOL SHOWN IN FIGURE No. 117 TO INDICATE THE END OF NO STOPPING ZONE FOR BUSES OR GOODS VEHICLES RESPECTIVELY.

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 169



KEEP LEFT

THIS SIGN IS A VARIATION IN SIZE OF FIGURE No. 130.

THE SIGN INDICATES THAT VEHICLES MUST KEEP TO THE NEARSIDE LANE EXCEPT WHEN OVERTAKING.";

- (g) in Figure No. 401 -
 - (i) by repealing "175(250) (350) (425)" and substituting "175 - 425";
 - (ii) by repealing "400(600) (800) (1 000)" and substituting "400 - 1 075";
 - (iii) in the note -
 - (A) by repealing "SIGN" where it first appears and substituting "SIGNS";
 - (B) by repealing "No. 117" and substituting "Nos. 106, 107, 109, 117 AND 122";
 - (C) by adding "IN TONNES" after "WEIGHT";
 - (D) by repealing "ARE PROHIBITED" and substituting "MUST PROCEED OR TURN IN THE DIRECTION, OR ARE PROHIBITED FROM THE TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS INDICATED BY THE SIGNS";
 - (E) by repealing "SIGN" where it secondly appears and substituting "PLATE";
- (h) in Figure No. 427 -
 - (i) by repealing "(175) 250 (350) (425) (500)" and substituting "175 - 350";
 - (ii) by repealing "(400) 600 (800) (1 000) (1 200)" and substituting "200 - 925";

- (iii) in the note -
 - (A) by repealing "SIGN" where it twice appears and substituting "SIGNS";
 - (B) by repealing "FIG. No." and substituting "FIGURE Nos. 106, 107, 109, 113, 122,";
- (iv) by adding "THE DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENT OR" after "THAT";
- (v) by repealing "SPECIFY ANY MOTOR VEHICLE OR ANY SPECIFIED" and substituting "'Lantau taxis" AND "大嶼山的士", "N T taxis" AND "新界的士" OR "Urban taxis" AND "市區的士", OR TO SPECIFY ANY TYPE,";
- (i) in Figure No. 429 -
 - (i) by repealing "450 (325) 225" and substituting "200 - 500";
 - (ii) by repealing "1475 (1100) 750" and substituting "500 - 1 500";
 - (iii) in the note -
 - (A) by repealing "and 143" and substituting ", 143, 165 and 167";
 - (B) by adding "'Except General Holidays" and "公眾假期例外" or to" before "specify";

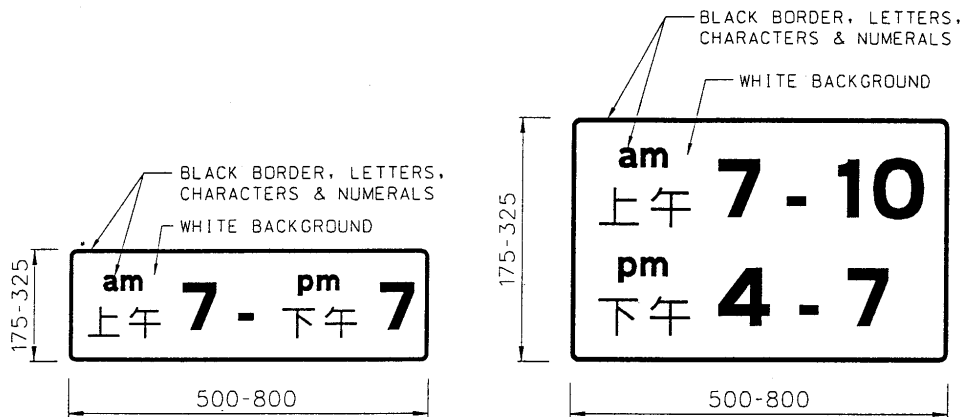
- (C) by repealing "No. 406" and substituting "Nos. 406 and 431";

- (j) in Figure No. 430 -
 - (i) by repealing "225 (325) (450) (350) (525) (700) (350) (525) (700)" and substituting "225 - 700";
 - (ii) by repealing "475 (700) (925) (525) (775) (1 050) (475) (700) (925)" and substituting "475 - 1 050";
 - (iii) in the note -
 - (A) by adding "AND 165" after "141";
 - (B) by repealing "ACCORD WITH THE SPECIFIED TYPES OR CLASSES OF" and substituting "'Lantau taxis" AND "大嶼山的士", "N T taxis" AND "新界的士 " OR "Urban taxis" AND "市區的士 " RESPECTIVELY, OR TO SPECIFY ANY TYPE, CLASS OR DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR";

- (k) by adding -

"SUPPLEMENTARY
PLATE

FIGURE No. 431



TIME PLATE

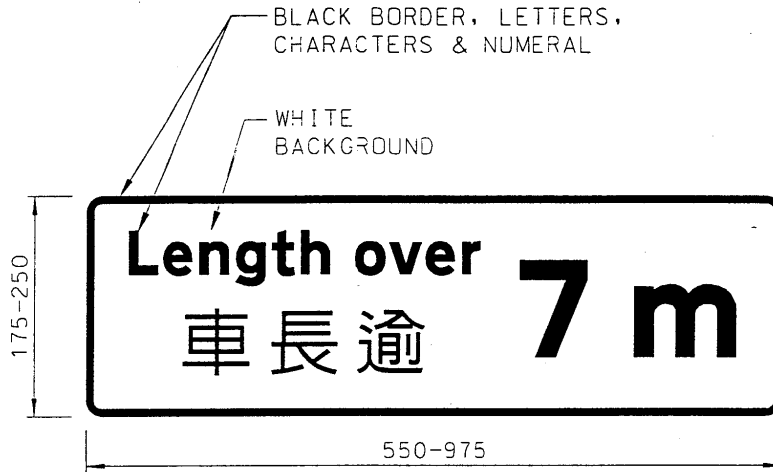
THIS PLATE IS A VARIATION IN SIZE AND FORMAT OF FIGURE NO. 406.

THIS PLATE MAY BE USED WITH THE SIGNS IN FIGURE Nos. 106, 107, 109, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 121, 122, 128, 134, 135, 140, 232, 233 TO INDICATE THE PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS INDICATED BY THE SIGNS APPLY. THE WORDING MAY BE VARIED TO SPECIFY ANY PERIOD OF TIME OR TIMES OR IN 24-HOUR TIME DISPLAY WITHOUT THE WORDS "am" AND "上午" AND/OR "pm" AND "下午".

THIS PLATE MAY ALSO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH FIGURE No. 429 TO INDICATE THE DAY OR DAYS DURING WHICH THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS INDICATED BY THE SIGNS APPLY.

SUPPLEMENTARY
PLATE

FIGURE No. 432



VEHICLE LENGTH

THIS PLATE MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SIGNS IN FIGURE Nos. 106, 107, 109, 113, 122 TO INDICATE THAT ALL MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A LENGTH IN METRES EXCEEDING THAT SPECIFIED MUST PROCEED OR TURN OR ARE PROHIBITED AS INDICATED BY THE SIGNS.

THE NUMERALS ON THE PLATE MAY BE ALTERED TO SUIT DIFFERENT LENGTH RESTRICTIONS."

Secretary for Transport

20th April 2001

Explanatory Note

This Regulation amends the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg.) to -

- (a) add the definitions of "Lantau taxi", "N T taxi" and "Urban taxi";
- (b) specify the signs or plates that could be used in conjunction with other signs or plates in Schedule 1; and
- (c) specify further traffic signs in Schedule 1.