

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Road Traffic (Traffic Control) (Amendment) Regulation 1999

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of section 11 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) and section 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.).

2. In exercise of this power, the Secretary for Transport has made the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) (Amendment) Regulation 1999 at **Annex A**.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

(A) Road Studs

3. Regulations 13(3) and 13(4) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations stipulate the dimensions of depressible and non-depressible studs and the height by which a stud may project above the surface of the carriageway. For non-depressible studs this is not to be more than 18mm at the highest point.

4. Non-depressible studs currently available in the market are approximately 20mm in height and are considered acceptable but cannot fulfill the maximum projection height of 18 mm stipulated in the Regulations. However, as technology develops, such dimensional requirements can become out of date quickly. The Director of Highways considered that, rather than having to regularise this dimensional requirement in the Regulations each time a change is made

to tie in with current availability and standards, he would lay down such technical standards by administrative measures. Sections 13(3) and 13(4) are to be deleted from the regulations.

(B) Traffic Lights

5. Regulation 17(1)(c) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations says that green light signals indicate that vehicular traffic may pass the light signals and proceed straight on or to the left or to the right.

6. For traffic management purposes, a green light signal of the type described in this regulation is frequently used in conjunction with a 'no left turn/no right turn' sign as prescribed in Figure 122 of Schedule 1 of the same Regulations. The intended meaning for the combination of a green light signal and a 'no left turn/no right turn' sign is that traffic may proceed but not in the direction prohibited by the sign. This meaning is clear to motorists and so far there is no complaint on the use of the combination or misunderstanding of its intended meaning.

7. There is however an apparent inconsistency between the prescribed meaning of the green light signal, i.e. vehicles can proceed straight on or to the left or to the right, and that of the 'no left turn/no right turn' sign which prohibits either the left or right turning movement.

8. To remove the above inconsistency, amendment to the legislation is required.

(C) Traffic Signs

9. Schedule 1 of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations, 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.

10. It is the purpose of this legislative amendment to add new signs and supplementary plates, and amend current signs, notes to signs and supplementary plates, so as to allow the necessary sign/supplementary plate combinations for traffic management purposes.

AMENDMENT REGULATION

11. The Amendment Regulation is to:

- (a) remove the restrictions on the dimensions of depressible and non-depressible studs;
- (b) clarify the significance of green light signal under regulation 17(1)(c);
- (c) specify the signs / plates that could be used in conjunction with other signs / plates in Schedule 1; and
- (d) specify further traffic signs in Schedule 1.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. The Legislative Council Panel on Transport and Transport Advisory Committee were consulted in June 1999 and supported the proposed amendments.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no financial and staffing implications.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no economic implications.

LEGISLATIVE TIME TABLE

15. The Amendment Regulation will come into effect on 8 January 2000.

PUBLICITY

16. The Amendment Regulation will be gazetted on 26 November 1999.

Transport Bureau
November 1999
(TRAN 1/12/123)

ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1999

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

1. Commencement

This Regulation shall come into operation on 8 January 2000.

2. Studs

Regulation 13(3) and (4) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg.) is repealed.

3. Significance of light signals

Regulation 17 (1) (c) is amended by adding “may, subject to complying with any prescribed traffic sign or prescribed road marking,” after “and”.

4. Traffic signs

Schedule 1 is amended -

- (a) in Figure No. 113, in the note -
- (i) by repealing “ITSELF,” and substituting “ITSELF BUT”;
 - (ii) by adding “, 429” after “406”;
- (b) in Figure No. 114, by repealing the note and substituting -

“ALL MOTOR VEHICLES PROHIBITED

THIS SIGN PROHIBITS THE ENTRY OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES.

WHEN ONLY MOTORCYCLE SYMBOL IS USED, THIS SIGN PROHIBITS THE ENTRY OF MOTORCYCLES AND MOTOR TRICYCLES.

WHEN ONLY CAR SYMBOL IS USED, THIS SIGN PROHIBITS THE ENTRY OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT MOTORCYCLES AND MOTOR TRICYCLES.

THIS SIGN MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLATES IN FIGURE NOS. 403, 404, 405, 406, 429 OR ON DIRECTION SIGNS.”;

(c) in Figure No. 136 -

(i) by adding at the end of the note -

“ THIS SIGN MAY BE USED WITHOUT THE
LETTERS “km/h”. ”;

(ii) in the sign, by repealing “中文” and substituting “數” ;

(d) in Figure No. 140, in the note, by adding “, 429, 430” after “427”;

(e) in Figure No. 141, in the note, by repealing the last paragraph and substituting -

“THIS SIGN MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
SUPPLEMENTARY PLATES IN FIGURE NOS. 429, 430.

SIGNS IN FIGURE NOS. 140, 406, 408, 429, 430 MAY BE USED AT
INTERVALS ALONG THE ROUTE AS REMINDERS OF THE
RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE.”;

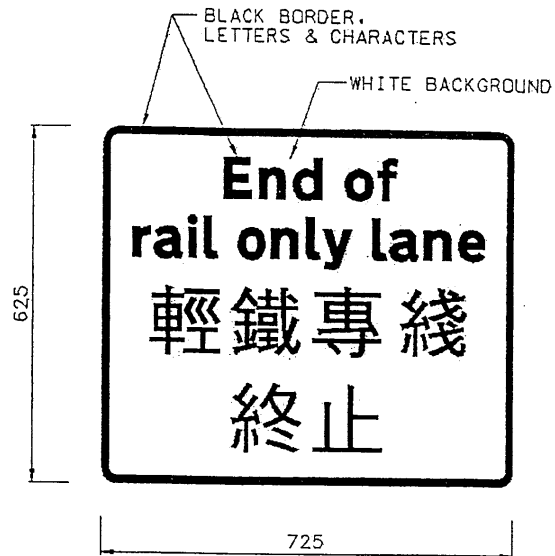
(f) in Figure No. 143, by adding at the end of the note -

“THE SIGN MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
SUPPLEMENTARY PLATE IN FIGURE NO. 429.”;

(g) by adding -

"REGULATORY

FIGURE NO. 163



END OF RAIL ONLY LANE

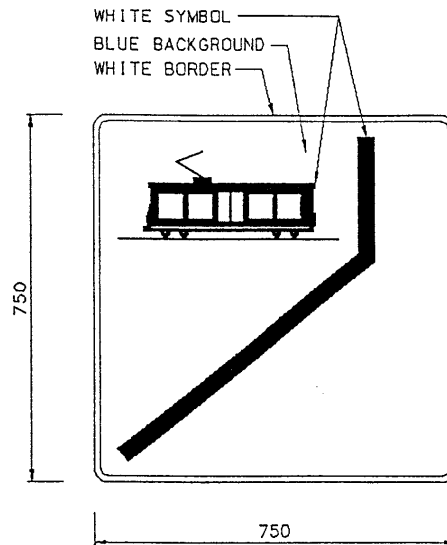
THIS SIGN MAY BE USED TO INDICATE THE END OF RAIL ONLY LANE FOR VEHICLES OF THE NORTH-WEST RAILWAY.

THE WORD "rail" AND CHARACTERS "輕鐵" MAY BE CHANGED TO "tram" AND "電車" TO INDICATE THE END OF TRAM ONLY LANE FOR TRAMS.";

- (h) in Figure No. 233, in the note, by repealing "要求" and substituting "情況";
- (i) by adding -

"WARNING

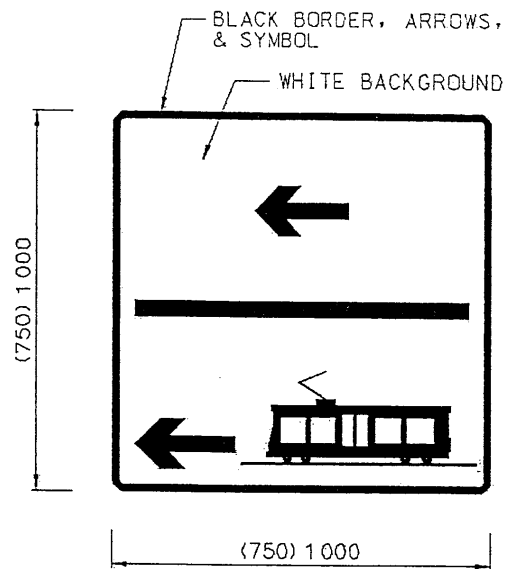
FIGURE No. 264



ADVANCE WARNING OF RAIL ONLY LANE FOR
VEHICLES OF THE NORTH-WEST RAILWAY OR
TRAM ONLY LANE FOR TRAMS

THIS SIGN MAY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH
A SUPPLEMENTARY PLATE IN FIGURE No. 418 TO
INDICATE THE DISTANCE TO THE START OF RAIL
ONLY LANE FOR VEHICLES OF THE NORTH-WEST
RAILWAY OR TRAM ONLY LANE FOR TRAMS.

FIGURE No. 265



ADVANCE DIRECTION SIGN FOR SIDE ROADS

(FOR THE NORTH-WEST RAILWAY

VEHICLE OR TRAM)

THE ARROWS OR SYMBOLS ON THIS SIGN MAY BE REVERSED OR THE POSITION OF THE ARROWS AND SYMBOL ALTERED TO SUIT THE PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS.";

(j) in Figure No. 406, in the note -

- (i) by repealing "在何段時間內";
- (ii) by adding "在何段時間內" before "適";
- (iii) by adding at the end -

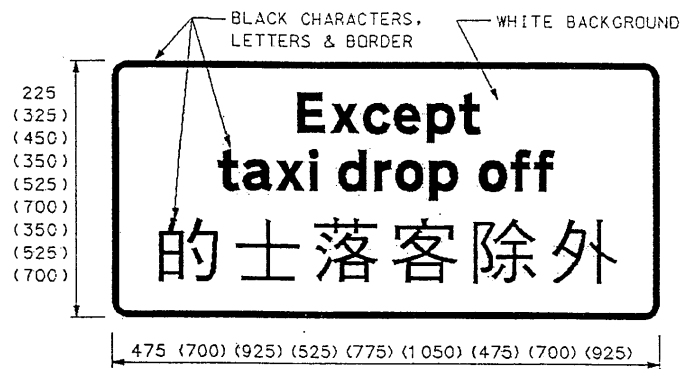
"THIS PLATE MAY ALSO BE USED IN
CONJUNCTION WITH FIGURE NO. 429 TO
INDICATE THE PERIOD OF TIME OF THE
SPECIFIED DAY OR DAYS DURING WHICH
THE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS
APPLY.";

(k) in Figure No. 418, in the note, by adding ", 264"
after "246";

(1) by adding -

"SUPPLEMENTARY
PLATE

FIGURE No. 430



THIS PLATE MAY BE USED WITH THE SIGNS IN FIGURE Nos. 140, 141 TO INDICATE THE EXCEPTION OF TAXIS TO THE NO STOPPING RESTRICTION FOR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND THEIR BELONGINGS ONLY.

THE WORD "taxi" AND CHARACTERS "的士" MAY BE OMITTED OR VARIED TO ACCORD WITH THE SPECIFIED TYPES OR CLASSES OF VEHICLE EXCEPTED.

THE WORDS “drop off” AND CHARACTERS”落客” MAY BE VARIED TO “pick up” AND”上客”TO INDICATE THE EXCEPTION TO THE NO STOPPING RESTRICTION FOR PICKING UP PASSENGERS AND THEIR BELONGINGS ONLY; “pick up or drop off” AND”上落客”FOR PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND THEIR BELONGINGS ONLY; “loading” AND”上貨”FOR LOADING GOODS ONLY; “unloading” AND”落貨”FOR UNLOADING GOODS ONLY; OR “loading or unloading” AND”上落貨”FOR LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS ONLY.”.

Secretary for Transport

19 November 1999

Explanatory Note

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

- (a) remove the restrictions on the dimensions of depressible and non-depressible studs;
- (b) clarify the significance of green light signal under regulation 17 (1) (c);
- (c) specify the signs/plates that could be used in conjunction with other signs/plates in Schedule 1; and
- (d) specify further traffic signs in Schedule 1.