

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Road Traffic Ordinance (Chapter 374)

ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) (ADDITION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS) REGULATION 2007

INTRODUCTION

— The Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works has made the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) (Addition of Traffic Signs) Regulation 2007 (at **Annex**) to add new traffic signs to facilitate better traffic management and enhance road safety.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. Lane signals are illuminated traffic signals installed above traffic lanes, displaying symbols indicating temporary closure of certain lanes at certain locations and alerting drivers in advance of such lane closure. In case of closure of a section of a traffic lane due to incidents, lane signals can be used to instruct drivers in the affected lane to start changing lane well ahead of the spot. Lane signals can therefore help improve traffic flow and enhance road safety.

3. Variable speed limit signs are illuminated traffic signs installed on roads to provide guidance to motorists on the speed limits in force. The speed limits displayed on such signs can be varied electronically to suit road conditions at different times. This can be used to slow down traffic during adverse weather conditions such as strong wind or low visibility.

4. To give lane signals and variable speed limit signs the same legal status as other similar signs in the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. G) (the Regulations) for their applications on all roads in Hong Kong, we propose to add the signs as new traffic signs to Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

THE AMENDMENT REGULATION

5. The main provisions of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) (Addition of Traffic Signs) Regulation 2007 are made to:

- (a) specify new traffic signs in Schedule 1 to the Regulations; and
- (b) provide that any person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with the requirement indicated by the new traffic signs commits an offence.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

6. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	27 April 2007
Tabling at the Legislative Council	2 May 2007

The Amendment Regulation will come into effect on 23 June 2007.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

7. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including provisions concerning human rights. It does not affect the current binding effect of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374). The proposal should have no financial, civil service, economic, productivity, environmental or sustainability implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. We have consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Transport on the Amendment Regulation at its meeting on 2 March 2007. Members have no objection to it.

PUBLICITY

9. A spokesman will be available to answer media enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

10. For enquiries, please contact Ms Rosanna Law, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works, at 2189 2182.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
25 April 2007

**ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL)(ADDITION
OF TRAFFIC SIGNS) REGULATION 2007**

(Made by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works under
section 11 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374))

1. Commencement

This Regulation shall come into operation on 23 June 2007.

**2. Failure to comply with traffic signs and road
markings**

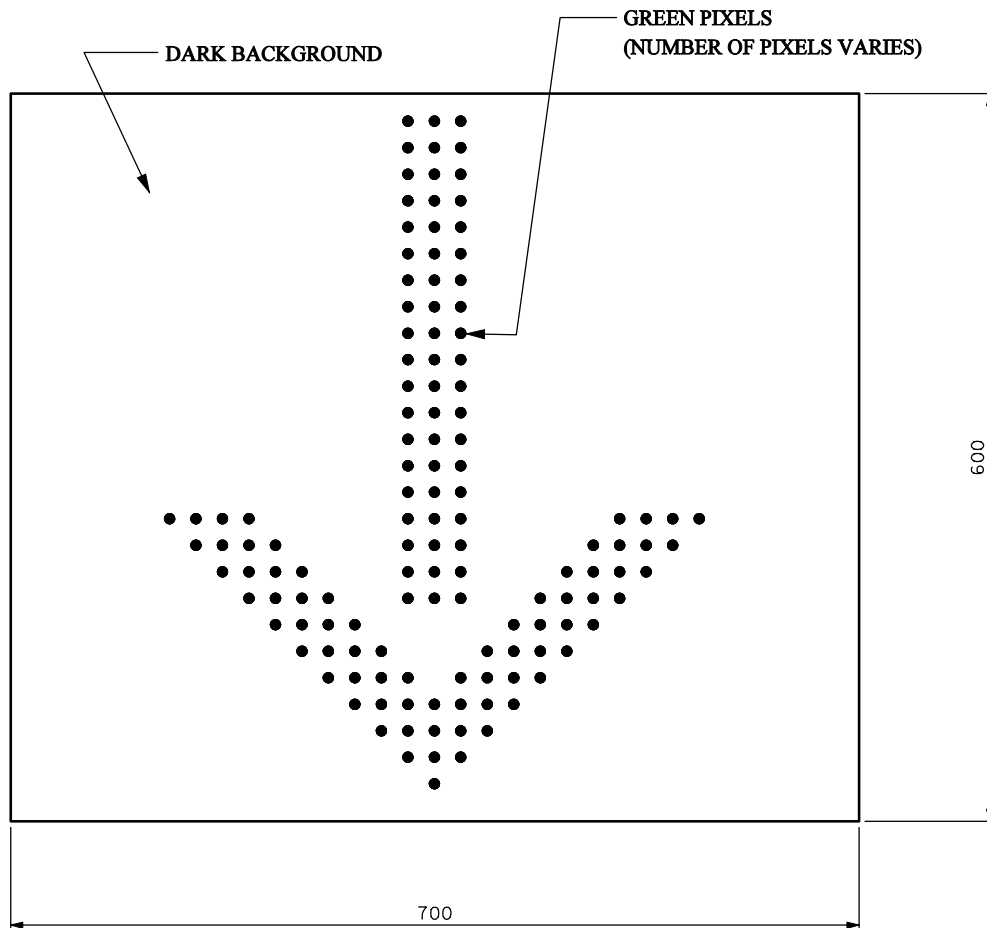
Regulation 59(1)(a) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. G) is amended by repealing “168 and 169” and substituting “168, 169, 170, 171, 172 and 173”.

3. Traffic signs

Schedule 1 is amended by adding –

“REGULATORY

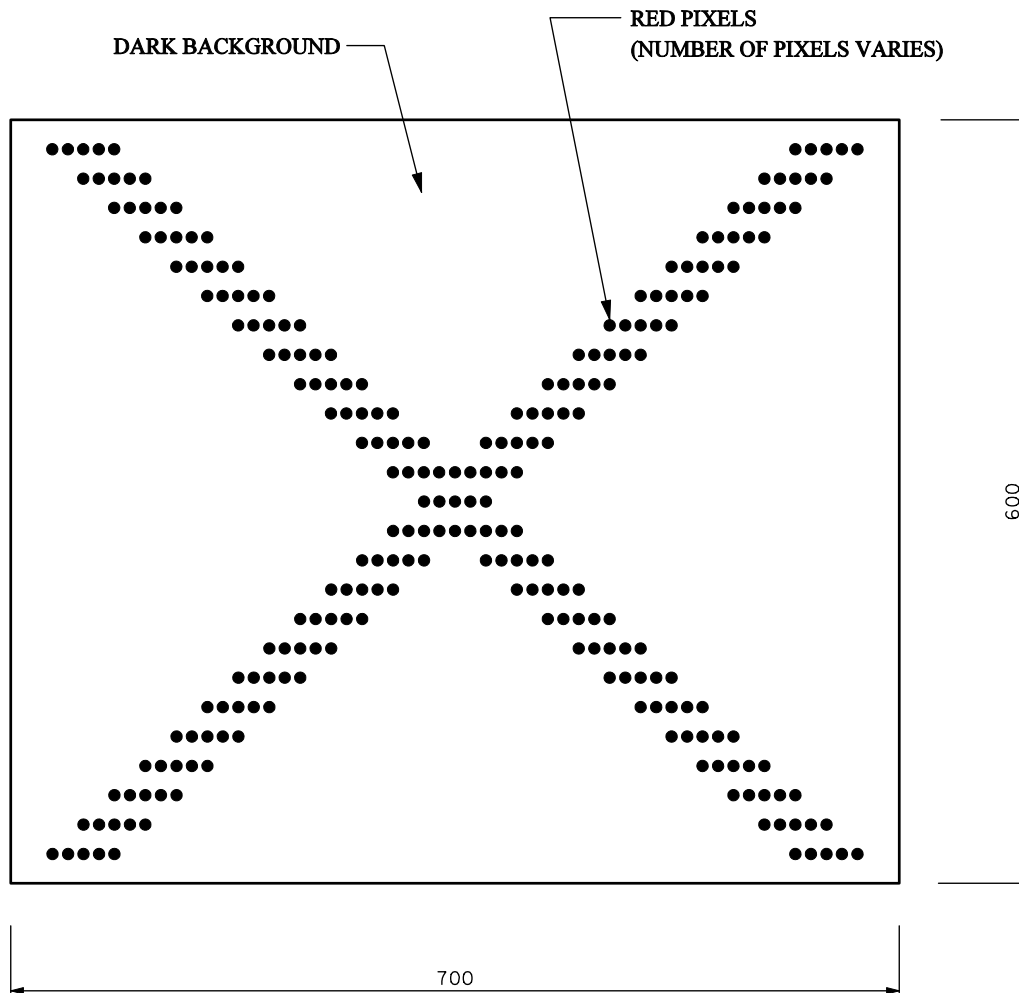
FIGURE No. 170

LANE SIGNAL

THIS SIGN WHEN DISPLAYED ABOVE A TRAFFIC LANE INDICATES THAT VEHICLES MAY PROCEED OR CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THAT LANE BENEATH OR BEYOND THE SIGN AND IN THE DIRECTION OPPOSITE TO THAT IN WHICH THE SIGN FACES.

REGULATORY

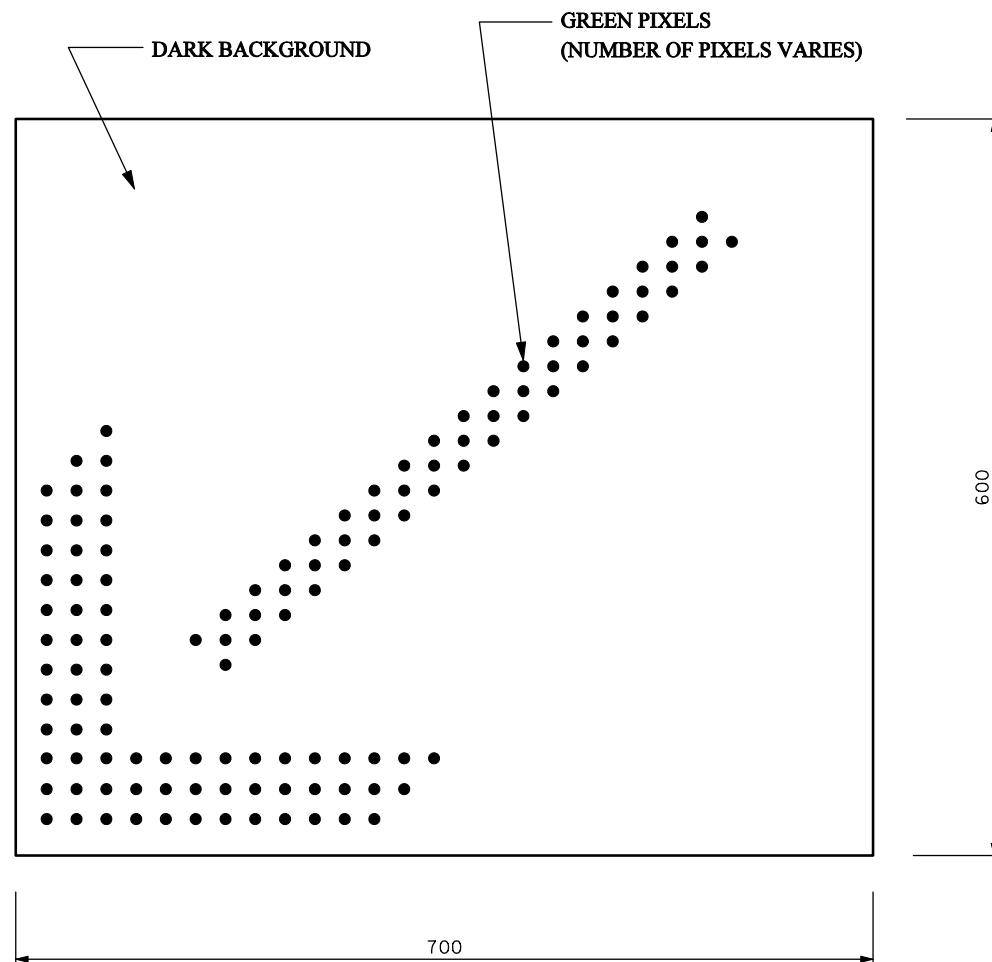
FIGURE No. 171

LANE SIGNAL

THIS SIGN WHEN DISPLAYED ABOVE A TRAFFIC LANE INDICATES THAT VEHICLES SHALL NOT PROCEED BENEATH OR BEYOND THE SIGN IN THAT LANE IN THE DIRECTION OPPOSITE TO THAT IN WHICH THE SIGN FACES.

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 172



LANE SIGNAL

PROCEED LEFT OR KEEP LEFT

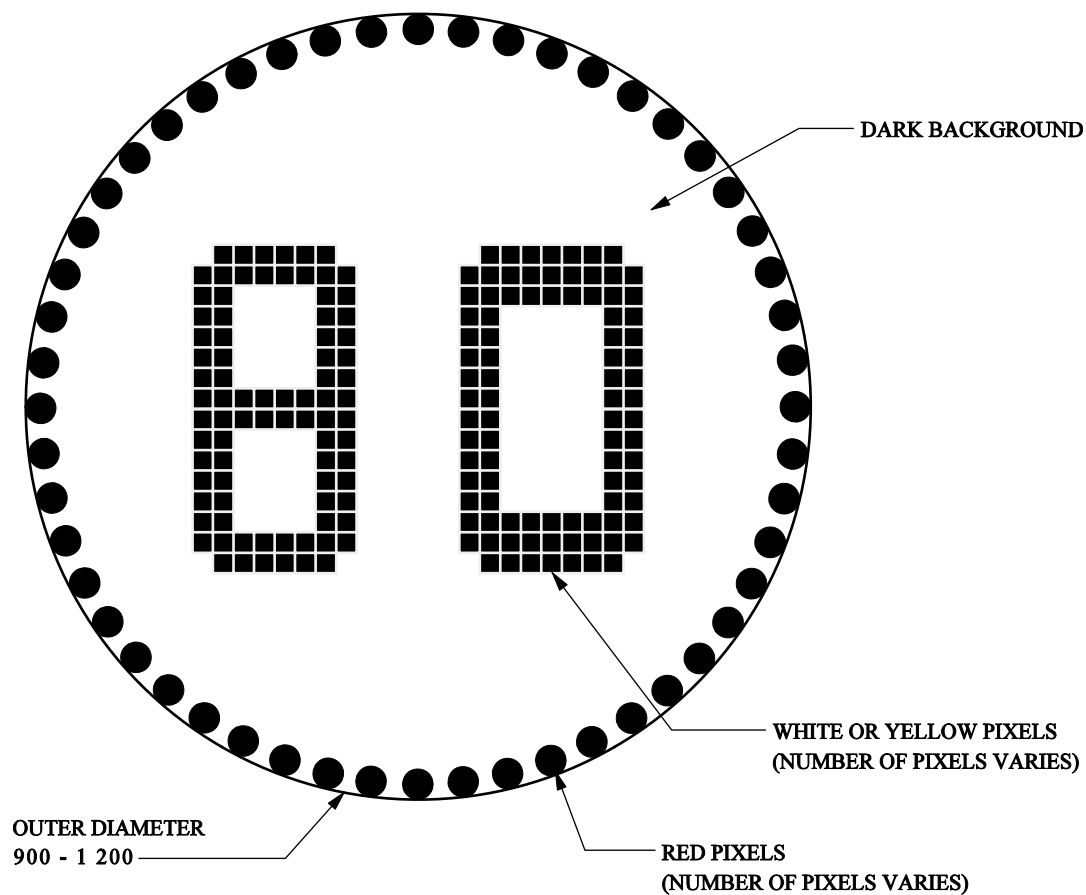
THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW MAY BE REVERSED TO INDICATE -

PROCEED RIGHT OR KEEP RIGHT

THIS SIGN WHEN DISPLAYED ABOVE A TRAFFIC LANE INDICATES THAT VEHICLES MUST PROCEED OR KEEP TO THE LANE ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE (OR THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE) OF THE LANE ABOVE WHICH THE SIGN IS DISPLAYED.

REGULATORY

FIGURE No. 173

VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT

THIS SIGN INDICATES THAT A SPEED LIMIT OF 80 km PER HOUR IS IMPOSED ON THE SECTION OF THE ROAD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SIGN.

THE NUMERALS IN THE SIGN MAY BE ALTERED TO SUIT THE SPEED LIMIT IN FORCE.”.

Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works

Explanatory Note

This Regulation –

- (a) specifies new traffic signs in Schedule 1 to the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. G); and
- (b) provides that any person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with the requirements indicated by the new traffic signs commits an offence.