

Memorandum

Our ref
Your ref
Date 6 October 2010

To

Subject Amendments to the 2010 Edition of MUTCD Part 3

Until an amendment is inserted in a future revision of the MUTCD Part 3, the following interpretations shall apply. In the interim, this advice will be published in a future revision of the Traffic and Road Use Management (TRUM) manual. Further advice will be issued on how the TRUM manual will be used to capture all technical advice with respect to works on roads.

2.5.3 Setting out and recovery of devices

Before work commences, signs and devices at the approaches to and within the work area should be set out in accordance with the traffic guidance scheme in the following sequence:

- (a) Advance warning and regulatory signs.
- (b) All intermediate advance warning and regulatory signs and devices required in advance of the taper or start of the work area.
- (c) All delineating devices required to form the taper including the illuminated flashing arrow sign at the end of the taper where required.
- (d) Delineation of the work area or side track.
- (e) All other required warning and regulatory signs including termination and end of temporary speed zone signs.

This operation shall be carried out, where practicable, as **work off the travelled path in accordance with Clause 4.3.7, or as short term work in traffic in accordance with Clause 4.3.3, for locations in open road areas. This operation shall be carried out in accordance with Clause 4.4.2 or 4.4.3 for locations in built-up areas.**

A mobile works method (see Clause 4.6) shall be used if the above method is not practicable due to the volume or speed, or both, of approaching and passing traffic.

Recovery of devices at the conclusion of the work shall be done in the reverse order using the same work method as for setting out.

Signs and devices that are erected before they are required should be covered by a suitable material.

The cover should be removed immediately prior to the commencement of work.

4.3 SHORT-TERM LOW IMPACT WORKS - OPEN ROAD AREAS

4.3.1 General

The treatments in this Clause (4.3) are permitted in recognition of the need to allow certain short-term low impact works to be carried out without the use of fully protected static work sites or mobile works convoys.

It is vital that a risk assessment (see Clause 2.2.3) be made of the proposed adoption of these treatments in particular environments taking particular account of factors such as traffic volume and speed, road geometry and width, and the general behaviour of road users.

If the risk cannot be tolerated, a fully protected static work site (Clause 4.2) or mobile works convoy (Clause 4.6) will be required. ~~These treatments shall not be applied on expressway type roads~~

4.3.2 Work between gaps in traffic

Work that is of such short duration that it can be carried out within gaps in traffic may be done without advance signs or delineation provided that -

- a) a lookout person who can see approaching traffic in time to warn workers to vacate the roadway before its arrival, is posted; and
- b) work vehicles and equipment are parked clear of moving traffic lanes.

A vehicle mounted warning device shall be displayed on the work vehicle.

~~This treatment shall not be applied on roads with traffic volumes greater than 400 vpd~~

4.3.3 Short term work in traffic

Workers with a vehicle or item of plant equipped with a vehicle-mounted warning device may work on the roadway or within 1.2 m of moving traffic without the use of advance signs provided the roadway at any one work site is not occupied for more than 5 min and the conditions below are observed. ~~Traffic volumes shall be less than 400 vpd.~~

Sight distance to the vehicle-mounted warning device for approaching drivers shall be -

- (a) greater than 150 m in a 60 km/h or lower speed zone; or
- (b) greater than 250 m elsewhere.

The vehicle-mounted warning device shall not be obscured, e.g. by overhanging vegetation or a raised truck body.

4.3.4 Frequently changing work area

For activities such as minor maintenance on the pavement or shoulder, including road furniture maintenance and longitudinal survey work at successive locations less than 2 km apart, the frequently changing work area treatment may be applied. If it is applied the treatment shall be subject to the following requirements:

- (a) In all cases the following requirements of Clause 4.3.3 shall be observed:
 - (i) Work vehicle positioning and length of occupation of any one site (maximum of 5 min).

~~(ii) Traffic volumes less than 400 vpd.~~

(iii) Display of the vehicle mounted warning device.

(iv) Sight distance to the work vehicle for approaching traffic.

(v) Running lane width reduction.

(vi) The need for a lookout person to warn workers on foot on the roadway of approaching traffic.

ADD to 4.3.7

- The following activities may proceed with the work vehicle parked clear of the normal travelled path:
 - a) mowing and litter activities
 - b) graffiti removal
 - c) minor tree clearing
 - d) minor cleaning of culverts, pipes and pits
 - e) herbicide spraying
 - f) road edge guide post repairs

4.4.2 Frequently changing work area - Work not within traffic lane

The work shall be carried out with a vehicle equipped with a vehicle mounted warning device parked on a shoulder or parking lane or elsewhere where parking is permitted adjacent to moving traffic. The vehicle shall shadow the work area at all times, either to the front or back of it. The limitations that shall apply are -

The work area may move frequently between successive locations.

The following are examples of short-term works appropriate for this treatment when they do not require encroachment onto a moving traffic lane:

- (A) Pit cleaning or repair.
- (B) Litter collection.
- (C) Tree pruning or planting.
- (D) Road signs or street furniture maintenance.
- (E) Street light maintenance
- (F) mowing and litter activities
- (G) graffiti removal
- (H) minor tree clearing
- (I) minor cleaning of culverts, pipes and pits
- (J) herbicide spraying
- (K) road edge guide post repairs

NOTE: A static work site will be required if these conditions cannot be met, see Clause 4.4.1.

4.4.5 Works on medians, verges and footpaths

The following works may be carried out without any support vehicle on the roadway, subject to the work duration being limited to a single shift and to the conditions listed in Items (i) and (ii):

(i) & (ii) are not applicable if the work area is protected by a shadow (support) vehicle and a risk assessment as required has been undertaken.

- (a) Median and verge mowing, and related activities such as tilling, seeding and weed spraying.
- (b) Works on a footpath.
- (c) Garden maintenance
- (d) mowing and litter activities
- (e) graffiti removal
- (f) minor tree clearing
- (g) minor cleaning of culverts, pipes and pits
- (h) herbicide spraying
- (i) road edge guide post repairs.

- The following conditions shall be met: **except as above**
- (i) *Large plant items only (see Note to Clause 4.4.3)*
- Where there are no workers on foot, the relationship between speed limit and clearance to edge of traffic lane shall be as follows:
 - (A) Speed limit 90 km/h or more - clearance shall be greater than 1.2 m.
 - (B) Speed limit 80 km/h or less - clearance may be less than 1.2 m but plant items shall not encroach onto the traffic lane.

(ii) *Workers on foot or small items of plant*

Where there are workers on foot or small items of plant, or both, the work method shall be restricted to one of the following:

- (A) The speed limit is 60 km/h or less and the work area does not encroach onto a moving traffic lane.
- (B) The speed limit is 80 km/h or less and the clearance to edge of traffic lane is at least 1.2m.
- (C) The entire work area is at least 3 m clear of a moving traffic lane.

The Worker (symbolic) (T1-5) sign or ROAD PLANT AHEAD (T1-3) shall be displayed respectively, when either workers on foot or plant items alone are present and working closer than 3 m to a moving traffic lane.

REMOVE

~~Wherever there are workers on foot or small items of plant working 3 m or less clear of a moving traffic lane, cones or bollards, in accordance with Clause 3.9.1, shall be placed along the kerb line or edge of traffic lane if no kerb.~~

NOTE: A static or mobile work site will be required if these conditions cannot be met (see Clause 4.4.1).

4.5 WORKS ON UNSEALED ROADS

4.5.1 General

The following treatments are permitted on unsealed roads in recognition of the generally lower volumes and traffic speeds encountered on those roads than on sealed roads and the need to be economical in the expenditure of resources on these low usage facilities.

Since they could be seen as a partial relaxation of safety standards, it is vital that a risk assessment (see Clause 2.2.3) be made of the proposed adoption of these treatments in particular environments taking particular account of factors such as traffic volume and speed, road geometry, width and surface condition, and the general behaviour of road users.

~~This treatment shall not be applied to roads with traffic volumes greater than 400 vpd.~~

The treatments shall not be applied to any road which would normally be sealed but has been left unsealed either temporarily or permanently due to, for example, economic or climatic factors or is in the process of construction or reconstruction as a sealed road.

This advice is issued in my capacity as the Delegate of the Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with respect to Section 166(2) of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995.



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