DS.007
H-Bar markings

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<td>D.Farnham/T.Walker</td>
<td>29.04.13</td>
<td>D.Waters</td>
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<td>28.10.17</td>
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Part of the carriageway outside an entrance to off-street premises or a private drive, or where the kerb is dropped to provide a convenient crossing place for pedestrians, which should be kept clear of waiting vehicles.
1 Introduction

1.1 Notes
a. This design standard explains requirements for the design and use of H-Bar markings. These advisory markings are sometimes installed to the carriageway edge in front of vehicle crossings (accesses to private driveways or other hard standings) to deter other road users from parking there.

b. See standard DS.300 for general requirements on the use of traffic signs and road markings, including sign sizes and lighting requirements.

c. See the SSDM webpages at www.southwark.gov.uk/ssdm.

1.2 Discussion
a. White ‘H-Bar’ line markings to TSRGD diagram 1026.1 are sometimes installed to the carriageway edge in front of vehicle crossings (accesses to private driveways or other hard standings) or kerbs that have been dropped to assist pedestrians to deter other road users from parking there. H-Bar markings are advisory only.

b. Section 56 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) makes it automatically an offence to park in front of vehicle crossings or pedestrian dropped kerbs. The need for H-Bars is therefore questionable and these are often identified as an instance of street clutter.

c. Given the above, use of H-Bar markings is generally to be avoided. Where there is a concern that additional measures may be required to prevent parking in front of accesses then other approaches should be taken such as designating yellow line waiting restrictions in front of them (to make visually apparent the prohibition under Section 56 of the TMA) or introducing footway build outs in the vicinity of the access (which will be self enforcing).

2 Use requirements

2.1 New H-Bar markings
a. No new H-Bar markings should be introduced, irrespective of the presence of any existing such road markings in the near vicinity.

2.2 Existing H-Bar markings
a. Where an existing H-Bar marking within a project area was installed less than or equal to 3 years ago then this should be retained unless approval in writing to remove them is obtained from the property owner to which the related vehicle crossing or other access leads. However, such existing lines may not be refreshed (that is, re-lined should they be fading) unless a level 1 departure is agreed.

b. Where an existing H-Bar marking within a project area was installed greater than 3 years ago then this should be removed unless a level 1 departure is agreed. It will need to be demonstrated that this serves a legitimate purpose that could not be reasonably achieved through other approaches.