

DS.312

Text legend road markings

Ver.	Status	Created by	Date	Approved by	Date
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1 Introduction

1.1 Notes

- a. This standard explains requirements about the use of text legend road markings within the highway. These are road markings that include text wording for road users (for instance 'slow', 'no entry', 'keep clear' or 'bus lane').
- b. See standard DS.900 for definitions of terms used in this design standard. Note in particular the definitions for 'should', 'will', 'may', 'level 1 departure', 'level 2 departure' and 'approving officer' as used to describe requirements.
- c. See standard DS.300 for general requirements on the use of traffic signs and road markings, including sign sizes and lighting requirements.

1.2 Discussion

- a. Text legend road markings can be used to convey useful information to road users. This might be about:
 - i. Access or use restrictions (for instance – 'no entry' or 'bus lane').
 - ii. Potential safety hazards (for instance – 'slow').
 - iii. Directions (for instance, the name of a destination that can be reached by following a particular lane).

However, being very large these markings can be particularly visually intrusive. They may often serve to emphasise the vehicular functions of streets at the potential detriment to quality of place and drivers awareness of the social functions of streets. As such their use should generally be avoided unless a particularly strong case can be made for this.

- b. Like for most other upright signs and road markings, the majority of the time there is no statutory requirement to introduce text legend road markings, though very occasionally there may be a requirement that if certain other signs are to be used, a particular text legend sign must also be used.

2 Requirements

2.1 Use requirements

- a. Except where authorised in other design standards, text legend road markings should not be used. Where encountered within scheme areas existing instances should always be reviewed with a view to removal. Retention will require agreement to a level 1 departure. An evidence safety or statutory need for the marking that could not be otherwise avoided by less visually intrusive means will need to be demonstrated.

Note 1: This above includes specifically the use of, keep clear markings, no entry markings, cycle route reference number markings, road classification markings, place names and 'slow' text markings.

Note 2: Except when considered critical to road safety, departure approval related to the above may be provided 'in-principal only' with final confirmation deferred until after an initial trial period to see whether the scheme operates satisfactorily without these markings.

2.2 Design requirements

- a. Where introduction of text legend road markings is permitted under this standard then the design and application of these will be agreed with approving officers on a case specific basis.
- b. Where introduction of text legend road markings is permitted by other standards then the design and arrangement of these will be as explained in those standards.