

DS.319 Central illumination columns

Ver.	Status	Created by	Date	Approved by	Date
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B	Final	G Lake	03.06.19	D Foden	25.06.19



1 Introduction

1.1 Notes

- a. This standard explains requirements about the use and design of central illumination columns (CICs) on traffic islands and other features.
- b. 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

General

- a. Central illumination columns (CICs) are columns with a white globe on top. They look similar to zebra crossing columns (only without the stripes). They are intended for placement on traffic islands where there is concern that these may not be adequately visible to road users. This could be due to the location of the island on the brow of a hill, a dip in the road or – even on flat roads – heavy queuing traffic. However, too often in the past CICs have been placed on traffic islands by default where there is no real need to do so. This introduces needless street clutter, creates asset management liabilities and wastes energy and resources through lighting. In addition, the columns themselves may sometimes introduce a hazard for road users should they be struck. Consequently - like all other traffic infrastructure – the use of CICs is best avoided unless a clear safety need exists.

2 Requirements

2.1 Use requirements

- a. The need for CICs should be avoided through the broader configuration of proposals. Introduction or retention (see note) of any CIC within a scheme area will require agreement to a level 2 departure. It will need to be demonstrated that an evidenced safety need exists that could not be otherwise avoided else addressed in a manner that would have a lesser visual impact. Removal will require agreement to a level 1 departure. It will need to be demonstrated that no residual safety need exists for the CIC that has not been otherwise addressed (see note).

Note: As ever, existing CICs should not simply be removed without consideration of the potential road safety purposes they might serve.

2.2 Design requirements

- a. Where they are permitted, CICs should be to BS 8442:2006. All other requirements will be agreed on a case specific basis with approving officers.