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Department of Transport
An Roinn Iompair



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Circular RST 3/2008

**Direction given to road authorities by the Minister under section 95(16) of the Road Traffic Act 1961:
Traffic Signs Manual (2008) Chapter 8 – TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MEASURES AND SIGNS FOR ROADWORKS**

A Chara,

I am directed by Mr. Noel Ahern, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Transport, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Transport (Delegation of Ministerial Functions)(Road Traffic) Order 2008, to issue this Circular letter together with a copy of the new updated Chapter 8 (Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks) 2008 of the Traffic Sign Manual which constitutes a direction given by the Minister to road authorities under section 95(16) of the Road Traffic Act 1961. This direction is given to road authorities for the purpose of the provision and use of all traffic signs referred to in Chapter 8, other than regulatory signs.

The new Chapter 8 has been prepared by the Department of Transport, the County and City Managers Association and the National Roads Authority in association with Roughan & O'Donovan-Faber Maunsell, Consulting Engineers.

For the sake of completeness, the new Chapter 8 (2008) also contains reference, where applicable, to the provision of specific regulatory signs being used in connection with traffic measures at roadworks. Regulatory road signs are prescribed in the Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations from 1997 onwards and the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations from 1997 onwards contain the regulatory basis underpinning the provision and use of those regulatory traffic signs.

The traffic signs that are provided by road authorities at places where roadworks are being carried out on the public roads must, under section 95(16) of the 1961 Act, be in conformity with the general and particular directions given by the Minister in Chapter 8 (2008). The directions in Chapter 8 (2008) outline temporary traffic measures to be used at work sites to warn, instruct and guide road users in the safe negotiation through or around the road works site, the circumstances in which road works traffic signs and other traffic signs may be used and guidance on the technical and other standards to be followed when they are being provided. A road authority, contractors, agents or authorised persons must not use any other format of signs wherever roadworks are being carried out on the public roads.

It is advised that a road authority, contractors, agents, etc who use roadworks signs put an identifying mark or logo on the back of every sign to indicate their ownership of that sign in order to ensure traceability. On no account should any identifying mark or logo be placed on the front of any regulatory, warning, roadworks or information traffic sign.

Publication and application of Chapter 8 (2008)

The new Chapter 8 (2008) is published and applicable from the date of this circular letter. It supersedes the directions contained in the original Chapter 8 (1996) of the Traffic Signs Manual (Circular TC/96 of 10 December 1996 refers) and those directions in the interim Chapter 8 (February 2007) to which Circular RST 1/2007 of 7 February 2007, Circular RST 2/2007 of 18 April 2007 and Circular RST 1/2008 of 7 March 2008 refer.

However, road authorities have the option of continuing to apply, until **31 March 2009**, the transitional arrangements that operate in relation to the directions set out in circular letter RST 1/2008 of 7 March 2008 and the earlier circulars referred to therein. This lead-in period is to allow road authorities time to take on board the revised provisions in Chapter 8 (2008).

Availability of Chapter 8

An electronic copy of the new Chapter 8 (December 2008) is published on the Department of Transport website: www.transport.ie. Details of a dimensioned manufacturing drawing for each roadworks sign in Chapter 8 (2008) will be published on this website – it is not proposed to publish and issue these working drawings in a separate hardcopy format.

Additional hardcopies of the new Chapter 8 (2008), in loose ring binders, may be purchased from the Publications Section, National Roads Authority, St Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4. Arrangements for ordering copies can be made with the Publications Section by telephone at (01) 660 2511. Copies can also be purchased in person direct from the Publications Section at a price of €40.

This edition of Chapter 8 was printed in *October 2008* and this is indicated on each page. This identification of the print edition will facilitate any future revision of Chapter 8 as amendments can be printed on a page by page basis showing the new print date and substituted in the ring binders for ready identification as to which print edition is being referred to.

Mise, le meas



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To each County Manager and each City Manager