national highways

INFORMATION

Safety Alert

Displaying of site speed limits

14 May 2025

Background information

Construction sites often have a site speed limit that is applicable to the construction traffic only.

National Highways is receiving feedback that some customers, when passing through the associated temporary traffic management (TTM), are confusing the works' site speed limit with the TTM related speed limits in place.

The belief is that this confusion is being caused by works' site speed limits signs that are based upon the design of Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions diagram 670 (see below image).

These works' site signs do not need to be designed as traffic signs as they come under the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996.

Lessons Learnt

- Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8, section U7.7.1 states that work site signs 'must not be designed or placed on site in a manner which approaching traffic could interpret them as indicating a message, warning, restriction or requirement to road users'
- To ensure alignment to Chapter 8 and reduce potential driver confusion, it is recommended that where works' site speed limit signs are required, they should be designed as per the example above, using only words and not numerals e.g. 'nine mph' and not '9 mph'.

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If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact chapter8@nationalhighways.co.uk

home safe and well