

Safety Alert

Safe use of Traffic Officer 610 directional arrow signs

24th June 2019

Background information

Traffic Officers have suffered an increasing number of injuries (7) within the last 6 months whilst specifically handling and using '610' directional arrow signs.

Colleagues have suffered muscle strains when lifting or carrying the signs, others have trapped fingers or have been struck by the weighted bottom arm when deploying them.

A review of all signs within one outstation revealed that of 72, just over 50% (37) had loose weighted bottom arms.

Root Causes

- Incorrect or missing protective gloves.
- Poor manual handling techniques used.
- Poorly maintained equipment. Signs were not in good working order prior to being deployed. This was not identified during the pre-shift POWDER checks or weekly deep clean.



Consideration for Employees

- Check the condition of 610 signs - ensure joints are not loose.
- Ensure the condition of the signs are checked during the POWDER check and the weekly deep cleans.
- Do not use damaged equipment. It may cause you to injure yourself or others.
- Use good manual handling techniques at all times.
- Remove and replace defective signs. Inform the Service Delivery team or any issues.
- Use the correct protective gloves when handling the signs.

Consideration for Managers

- Review the condition of the 610 signs held in outstations and in TOVs.
- Ensure all TOs are made aware of this alert.