

# Safety Alert

## Inspection and maintenance of Traffic Signs

16 July 2019

### Background information

On the 21st of June, one of our structures inspectors noticed some traffic signs in a severely poor condition. The two signs identified had considerable corrosion to the base of the legs, and complete loss of section in many other places. The post fixings to the sign face also had considerable splitting and loss of section.

These signs were 5.7m and 4.5m in height and adjacent to a dual carriageway. The decision was taken to remove these signs as they were clearly an immediate risk. Further inspections are ongoing.

The inspection of these signs is covered by our standard TD25/15. Inspections of traffic signs is necessary to identify defects which may affect safety. A key element is structural integrity. The recommended maximum frequency between safety inspections is two years, and it is clear in this case that the corrosion evident would have taken more than 2 years to materialise.

This defect was only picked up due to the diligence of our 'in-house' structures inspector.



### Recommendations

- Area teams and inspectors should be aware of the requirements of TD25/15, and adhere to the inspection frequencies.
- Records of the safety inspection and maintenance of each traffic sign must be maintained.
- Inspectors should be aware that structural defects can occur in traffic signs posts, particularly around the base and in the splash zone. This can often be hidden by vegetation so should not be ignored.
- Inspectors may wish to consider ultrasonic thickness measurements of post sections.