

Safety Alert

Placement of the “Workforce in Road SLOW” Sign (Diagram 7001.3)

28 March 2023

Background information

Costain's advisory team were recently commissioned via the SPaTS2 framework to complete a deep dive review and provide an informed national picture of overnight roadworks across the Strategic Road Network.

The survey covered all providers and regions and identified that Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) providers are erecting “Workforce in road—slow” signs at locations that require the TTM vehicle to be parked in a live lane.

We would like to remind all providers that this sign needs to be erected from a safe location, hard shoulder or lay-by. This must be done before any vehicle enters a live traffic lane to install, maintain, or remove traffic management when using dual vehicle working. This sign essentially forms part of the advance signing for traffic management tasks.

The condition of many of these signs was also noted as having a poor or extremely marginal sign face condition with substantial numbers being well below the size required by TSM Chapter 8 Table A1.2 and some not complying with the requirements of the TSRGD 2016.

It is therefore important that all personnel working on the highway implement these recommendations in accordance with their H&S training provided and before entering live sites. Installing signs from an unsafe location means an unsafe action has to be repeated to remove the sign.



Example of incorrect sign placement

Lessons Learnt

- Signs should be inspected and cleaned regularly to make sure they are fit for purpose.
- Unclean or worn signs do not have the same level of retro reflectivity and therefore do not appear as bright or visible.
- Installing signs from an unsafe location puts all road users at risk.