



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

**Guidance relating to
the Traffic Signs
Amendment (Scotland)
Regulations and
General Directions 2022
August 2022**

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Introduction

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) set out the mandatory requirements for the use of traffic signs and road markings on the road network.

Powers over traffic signs were devolved to Scottish Ministers under The Scotland Act 2016. Prior to this the TSRGD was applied on a UK wide basis by the Department for Transport.

A Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI) was introduced in May 2022, to enable the devolved TSRGD to be updated to meet the needs of the network in Scotland. This can be accessed at the link: [The Traffic Signs Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations and General Directions 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2022/1000). Where the term SSI is used in this document it refers to The Traffic Signs Amendment (Scotland) Regulations and General Directions 2022.

TSRGD 2016 remains the principal legislation which is amended by the SSI. Amendments introduced to the TSRGD through the SSI address the following issues:

- Prescribing signs for Low Emission Zones (LEZ);
- Prescribing signs which are already in common use but not currently within the regulations;
- Scotland specific amendments to reflect unique requirements of the Scottish road network;
- Updating symbols for agencies/authorities such as Forestry and Land Scotland and RSPB; and
- Supporting signing for modern infrastructure such as vehicle charging and motorhome service points.

This guidance offers advice to traffic authorities and their contractors, designers and managing agents in Scotland, on the amendments made by the SSI. Whilst the guidance can assist in complying with the mandatory requirements of TSRGD, it cannot provide a definitive legal interpretation, nor can it override them.

The advice is given to assist authorities in the discharge of their duties under the relevant Acts. Subject to compliance with the Directions, which are mandatory, it is for traffic authorities to determine what signing is necessary to meet those duties.

Working drawings for the additional and amended signs can be accessed on
Transport Scotland's website, at [Traffic signs and road markings | Overview |
Transport Scotland](#).

Summary of the Amendments

A summary of the amendments introduced through the SSI is provided below.

Additional signs

LEZ symbol: An additional circular symbol to be used on traffic signs, such as direction signs and advance warning signs, indicating a Low Emission Zone.

LEZ entry sign: An additional sign to indicate the entry to a Low Emission Zone, incorporating the LEZ symbol, and advising that cameras are in operation for the purposes of identifying contraventions of LEZ schemes.

LEZ repeater sign: An additional sign permitted for use within a Low Emission Zone, to remind drivers, incorporating the LEZ symbol.

LEZ end sign: An additional sign to indicate the exit from a Low Emission Zone, incorporating the LEZ symbol.

LEZ road marking: An additional road marking to emphasise the entry to a Low Emission Zone.

RSPB symbol: Permitting this symbol to be used on tourist information signs, for relevant attractions (as it currently is in England and Wales, as reference T 151.1).

Countdown markers to speed limits: Additional signs incorporating countdown markers to identify a speed control area approaching. This is particularly intended for use on approaches to towns and villages.

Symbol for motorhome servicing: An additional symbol for use on direction signs, to indicate locations where motorhomes and campervans can be serviced (water, toilet etc.).

Amendments to TSRGD 2016 signs

Additional warning sign legends: Extension of the permitted plates to be used with Diagram 562 (triangular exclamation mark warning sign), enabling cyclists crossing and concealed accesses to be highlighted.

Requirements for local facilities signing, Diagram 2308.1: Amendments to the required thresholds, allowing wider use of the local facilities sign. This will enable more remote village services to be signed, where they would not have met the

TSRGD 2016 threshold. It will also allow electric vehicle charging facilities and motorhome servicing facilities to be included on this sign.

Town or village entrance sign: Extension of the permitted background colours which can be used on the town or village entrance sign featuring a phrase and image (Diagram 2404).

Forestry and Land Scotland symbol: Updating the symbol for this organisation (reference T 304.1 used on tourist information signs).

Parking distance plates: Permitting a second distance to be included on the parking area approach sign, Diagram 2501, allowing drivers to make a more informed choice.

Pedestrian zone – flashing lights: Permitting the pedestrian and cycle zone signs (Diagrams 618.3B and 618.3C) to be identified by flashing lights. TSRGD 2016 only allowed for fixed time periods.

Transitional and savings provisions

Provisions are included within the SSI to ensure that existing signs already in place on the network will remain valid, even where they are superseded by the amendments. This is addressed in Regulation 8.

Signs for Low Emission Zones

Signs at the Low Emission Zone

Four additional complete signs have been introduced to support the introduction of Low Emission Zones in Scotland's cities. A new Part 4B to Schedule 8 was introduced by the SSI, and includes:

- Diagram 680 - Entrance to a Low Emission Zone
- Diagram 895 - Reminder to drivers within a Low Emission Zone
- Diagram 681- End of a Low Emission Zone
- Diagram 1070 - Road marking indicating the commencement of a Low Emission Zone

The four signs are illustrated (in order from the left) in Figure 1.

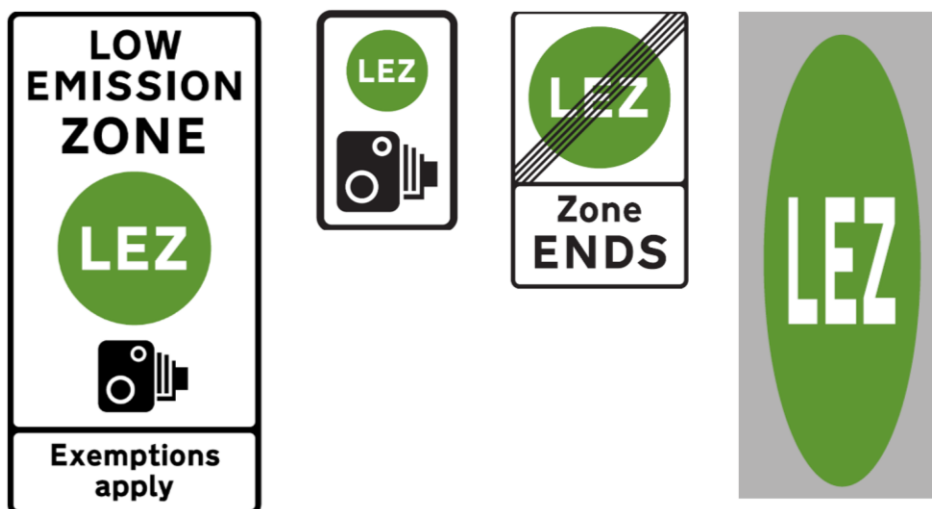


Figure 1: Diagrams 680, 895, 681 and 1070 (road marking) indicating a Low Emission Zone

The signing is similar in layout and scale to the signs in TSRGD 2016 (Schedule 8 Part 4) indicating the presence of a Congestion Charging zone. The signing is relatively simple, and does not permit any prescribed variations.

The details of compliant vehicles (and any exemptions or exceptions) is defined separately by the LEZ legislation. The boundary of a Low Emission Zone is fixed by the scheme, by reference to an area on a map, and by specifying the roads (or parts of a road) which form part of the zone, and is therefore not defined by the positioning of the signs. However, it is important that appropriate signing is provided to indicate the presence of the Low Emission Zone and give fair warning to road users. Unlike

Congestion Charging zones, it is an offence to drive a restricted vehicle within a Low Emission Zone, so clear messaging is essential. The appropriate provision of LEZ signing is the responsibility of the roads authority. It is anticipated that, as a minimum, the entry sign to Diagram 680 would be provided at every entry point to the Low Emission Zone.

The SSI provides various permitted sizes for the four signs. In most situations the smallest size will be suitable, but on higher speed roads (i.e. where the 85th percentile speed is greater than 35 mph), or on wide roads, the roads authority may determine that the larger sizes are required. Within any sign face, consistent sizing should be applied. So, for example, where the largest dimension is applied to the text, it should also be applied to the LEZ symbol.

All four signs include the LEZ symbol, which is discussed further in the following section.

LEZ symbol for use on approach

The LEZ symbol is incorporated in all of the LEZ signs discussed above. The symbol introduced by the SSI is circular, as illustrated in Figure 2, or in the case of the road marking, elongated to appear circular to road users. It features a light green background (as is used on Quiet Lane signs and directions for emergency services) and white text “LEZ” in Transport Heavy alphabet.



Figure 2: The LEZ symbol as added to Schedule 12 Part 20

As well as featuring on the LEZ signs, the symbol is also added to Schedule 12 Part 20. This allows the symbol to be incorporated on direction signs, similar to other symbols identifying restrictions such as weight restrictions, low bridges and bus gates. By using the symbol on these signs, road users can be given advance notification of the presence of a Low Emission Zone, and select their route accordingly.

Guidance on the use of symbols on direction signs is provided in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 7. Extracts from Traffic Signs Manual showing typical examples of symbols being displayed on these signs, alongside equivalent signs showing the LEZ symbol, are provided in Figure 3. (It is noted that the LEZ symbol is displayed

with a smaller diameter than the equivalent height limit and weight limit symbols, in accordance with the Schedule 12 regulations.)

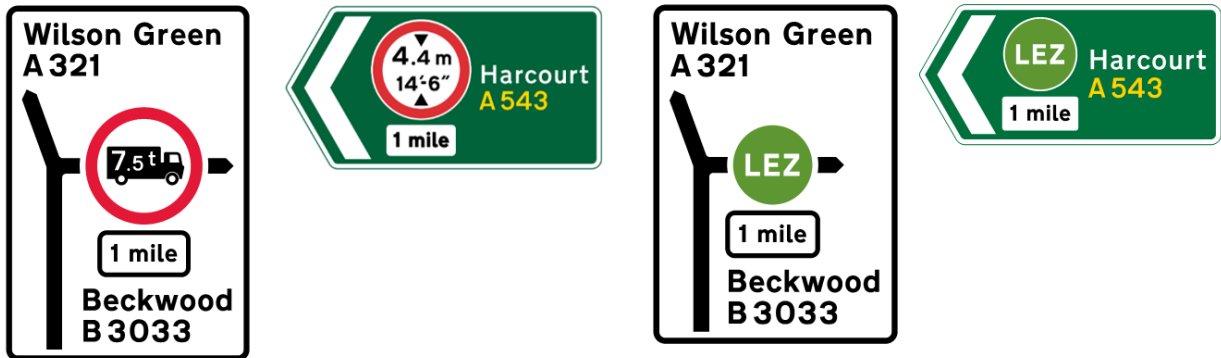


Figure 3: Typical examples of restriction symbols (including LEZ) being used on direction signs

The SSI also enables the LEZ symbol to be used on the standard advance notification sign to Diagram 818.4. This is addressed by the final amendment (7) to Schedule 12.

This sign allows the nature and location of a prohibition, restriction or requirement to be displayed, with indication of an alternative route provided beneath the symbol where this is appropriate. A Traffic Signs Manual extract showing an example of this sign type is shown in Figure 4, alongside examples showing the LEZ symbol.

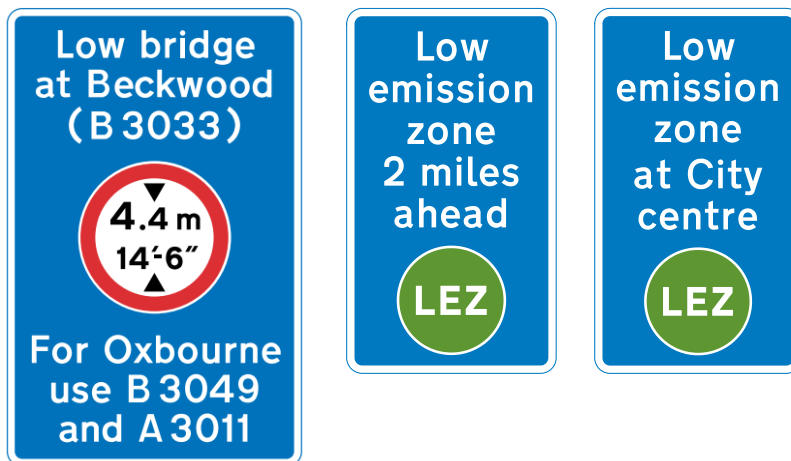


Figure 4: Diagram 818.4 advance notification sign (including LEZ versions)

The legends at the top and bottom of Diagram 818.4 can be varied (or omitted) to suit the situation, and may include arrows where appropriate. Further advice on the use of Diagram 818.4 is provided in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 3.

Wherever the LEZ symbol features on a dark background, it should include a narrow white outline to ensure distinction.

Signs for Entry to Pedestrian Zones

Schedule 8 Part 2 of TSRGD 2016 includes signs indicating pedestrian and pedestrian and cycle zones:

- Diagram 618.3B - Entry to, and waiting in, a pedestrian zone restricted
- Diagram 618.3C - Entry to, and waiting in, a pedestrian and cycle zone restricted

The SSI introduces two further signs to Schedule 8 Part 2, which are very closely aligned to these, as illustrated in Figure 5:

- Diagram 618.3BA - Entry to, and waiting in, a pedestrian zone restricted: version incorporating flashing lights (alternative to Diagram 618.3B)
- Diagram 618.3D - Entry to, and waiting in, a pedestrian and cycle zone restricted: version incorporating flashing lights (alternative to Diagram 618.3C)

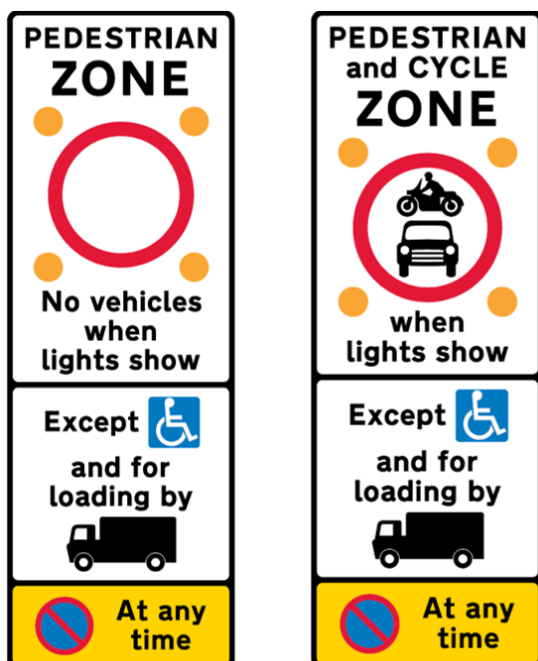


Figure 5: Diagrams 618.3BA and 618.3D incorporating flashing lights

The only difference between the original TSRGD 2016 signs and the signs introduced by the SSI is that the additional signs replace the time period permitted in the upper panel with the message “when lights show”, and incorporate amber flashing lights. All permitted variations relating to the middle and lower panels are identical to the original signs.

It is intended that this amendment will provide benefits in situations where the definition of the restricted zone is not well suited to fixed time periods. For example, it will enable the zone restriction to be applied during school term times, but not during holidays. This has potential dual benefit of:

- Enabling pedestrian or pedestrian/cycle zones to be applied in situations where they would otherwise be unsuitable, and/or;
- Ensuring that these zones are not applied during periods where they are not needed.

The regulation of these areas will be dependent on the lights working effectively. The decision to install these lights and the costs to install, operate and maintain them, will all be at the discretion of the roads authority.

The original signs to Diagrams 618.3B and 618.3C remain prescribed and are not affected by the amendments.

Direction Signs and Symbols

Symbols for use on direction signs

The LEZ symbol for use on direction signs is discussed in the section “Signs for Low Emission Zones”. Additionally, the SSI introduces two further symbols, and replaces an existing symbol, as follows:

- Property managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (replacement symbol T304.1)
- Nature reserve managed by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland (additional symbol T305)
- Service point for motorhomes (additional symbol)

Symbols for tourist signs

The symbols relating to Forestry and Land Scotland and the RSPB are incorporated in Schedule 12 Part 17 and are for use only on tourist signs. The two symbols are illustrated in Figure 6.



Figure 6: Symbols for Forestry and Land Scotland (left) and RSPB

In the case of the Forestry and Land Scotland symbol, this replaces the Forestry Commission Scotland symbol shown in TSRGD 2016 (T304.1) reflecting a change to the relevant organisation name and logo.

In the case of the RSPB symbol, this now enables the symbol to be used on tourist signs in Scotland, as was already prescribed for England and Wales in TSRGD 2016 (as reference T 151.1).

Trunk road and motorway tourist signing guidance is available on Transport Scotland’s website.

Symbol for motorhomes service point

The SSI introduces an additional symbol indicating a service point for motorhomes, illustrated in Figure 7.



Figure 7: Symbol indicating a service point for motorhomes

The symbol is added to the tables Schedule 12 Part 11 and Part 24. Inclusion in Part 11 prescribes it for use on primary (green) and non-primary (white) route direction signs, and on tourist signs (brown). Inclusion in Part 24 allows it to be incorporated on signs indicating services, but excludes its use on truck-stop signs.

The symbol can also be used on local facilities signs to Diagram 2308.1, as detailed in the section below.

The direction of the symbol is reversed depending on the direction of the facility, and it is coloured white where it features on a dark background.

Amendments to the local facilities sign

Schedule 12 Part 26 of TSRGD 2016 includes a direction sign indicating a route to local facilities, Diagram 2308.1. The SSI amends the criteria for using this sign in Scotland, and the symbols which may be incorporated.

Within TSRGD 2016, the condition for use of this sign is that the small town or village not on a main through route must provide “parking, public toilets, refreshments and fuel during normal shop opening hours at least”.

The SSI reduces the minimum requirement, so that the small town or village not on a main through route must provide parking, and at least either public toilets or fuel during normal shop opening hours.

This will allow more small towns and villages to be signed, and it is considered that the reduced provision remains a facility of value to road users, particularly in more remote areas.

The SSI also adds to the symbols permitted to be displayed on Diagram 2308.1, to include:

- Facilities for recharging electric vehicles
- Service point for motorhomes, as discussed in the preceding section

Figure 8 illustrates the full amended sign as shown in the SSI, but symbols should be removed as applicable based on the facilities available. Note that the symbols indicating facilities for disabled people, motorhome servicing and bed are to be oriented depending on the direction given by the sign.



Figure 8: Amended sign for local facilities featuring additional permitted symbols

Miscellaneous Advisory and Warning Signs

The SSI makes several amendments to Schedule 11 advisory signs, and also prescribes additional legends that can be used with the Schedule 2 hazard warning sign, Diagram 562 (exclamation mark).

Distance to a speed limit commencing

The SSI prescribes a series of signs, indicating countdown markers to the commencement of a speed limit. This sign had previously been subject to blanket authorisation throughout Scotland for some time, but was not formally prescribed prior to the amendment. The signs are most commonly used on approach to a town or village, where the speed limit is reducing from the national speed limit applied on rural roads.

The series of three signs feature roundels which show the speed limit of the area being approached, with markers below representing the distance to the commencement of the speed limit. Each marker represents 100 yards, and signs should be placed as a series of three:

- 300 yards from the commencement of the speed limit
- 200 yards from the commencement of the speed limit
- 100 yards from the commencement of the speed limit

The signs should only be used where the speed limit is reducing by at least 20 mph. A green background is used where the signs are placed on a primary route (as shown in Figure 9), and a white background is used where the signs are placed on a non-primary route. The signs are not prescribed for motorways. The distance markers can be reversed, allowing the signs to be installed on both sides of the road.



Figure 9: Countdown markers to the commencement of a speed limit

It is noted that these signs are not mandatory, and should only be used at the discretion of the roads authority, at locations where they are considered beneficial.

Additional distance to a parking place

Diagram 2501 in Schedule 11 Part 2 of TSRGD 2016 indicates a distance to the next parking place ahead. The SSI makes an amendment to Schedule 11, allowing two distances to be displayed, as shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10: Amended sign to Diagram 2501 indicating distances to two successive parking places

The two distances are separated by the word “and”.

The purpose of this amendment is to enable road users to make better informed choices about where to stop. It may be considered most useful where the distance between successive parking places is significant.

City boundary sign colour

Diagram 2404 in Schedule 11 Part 2 of TSRGD 2016 permits a representative phrase and image to be included on the sign on entry to the city, town, village or area. It requires the background to be brown (like a tourist sign), as in Figure 11.



Figure 11: Diagram 2404 boundary sign displaying a representative phrase and image

The SSI amends the Schedule 11 requirements for this sign, allowing the background to be any colour but red.

Additional plate legends on warning signs

Diagram 562 in Schedule 2 Part 2 of TSRGD 2016 is a warning sign of a danger ahead, and features an exclamation mark. A range of legends are prescribed for use on the white plate below.

The SSI prescribes two additional legends that can be used on the plate, as illustrated in Figure 12:

- Pedestrians and cyclists crossing
- Concealed access



Figure 12: Diagram 562 featuring additional permitted legends on plate below



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Published by Transport Scotland, August 2022

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