Australian Standard®

Manual of uniform traffic control devices

Part 1: General introduction and index of signs

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee MS/12, Road Signs and Traffic Signals. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 6 August 1991 and published on 14 October 1991.

The following interests are represented on Committee MS/12:

ACT Government
Australian Automobile Association
Australian Local Government Association
Australian Road Research Board
Austroads
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Roads and Transport, Tasmania
Department of Road Transport, South Australia
Department of Transport and Communications
Local Government Engineers Association of Victoria
Main Roads Department, Western Australia
Queensland Department of Transport
Railways of Australia Committee
Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales
VicRoads

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First published in part as AS CA14—1935.
AS CA14—1935 revised and redesignated
AS CE1—1946.
Second edition 1960.
AS CE1—1960 revised and redesignated
AS 1742.1—1975.
AS 1742.2 first published 1978.
AS 1742.1—1975 and AS 1742.2—1978 revised
and published in part as AS 1742.1—1986.
Second edition 1991.
Incorporating:
Amdt 1—1992

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140
ISBN 0 7262 7086 5

PREFACE

This edition of this Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Road Signs and Traffic Signals. It is one of the series of thirteen Standards which supersede AS 1742, Part 1—1975 and AS 1742, Part 2—1978, which were originally prepared by the Australian Committee on Road Devices (ACORD) under the direction of the Australian Transport Advisory Council and subsequently approved by Standards Australia for publication as an Australian Standard.

The need for national uniformity in the design and use of traffic control devices was first recognized by publication of an Australian Standard Road signs code in 1935. Subsequent editions in 1946 and 1960 were the forerunners of the present Standards in the AS 1742 series. In these there is now also a measure of harmonization with European and United States practices, achieved by taking account of the requirements of the 1968 Convention on road signs and signals, produced by the United Nations Conference on Road Traffic.

The decision to revise and publish AS 1742 as thirteen separate parts, each of which dealt with a specific situation and was self-contained, was taken in 1983 in consultation with the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities (now Austroads). The decision was supported by an Australia-wide survey of Local Government Authorities also undertaken in 1983.

This edition of this Standard now includes illustrations of signs specific to the following Standards published since the 1986 edition:

AS
1742.6 *Service and tourist signs*
1742.8 *Freeways*
1742.10 *Pedestrian control and protection*
1742.11 *Parking controls*
1742.13 *Local area traffic management devices*

In the production of road signs, computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacture (CAD/CAM) together with photographic reproduction techniques are now widely used. This fact was recognized by the committee responsible for the development of this Standard and AS 1743. Many of the signs in AS 1743 have been redimensioned so that the different sizes are directly proportional to one another thus facilitating the use of the above techniques. Corresponding changes have now been made to the dimensions of those signs in this Standard.

Appendix A which illustrates a number of signs used quite widely although not in all States has been retained in this edition. These signs which do not warrant inclusion in the Standard at the present time are illustrated in an appendix to discourage the development of different signs to deal with similar problems in other States.

Use of a separate shade of green for the background of freeway guide signs is discontinued. The single colour now adopted for the backgrounds of all direction signs is that designated in AS 1743—1989 as ‘Standard green’.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

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Part 1: General introduction and index of signs

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE This Standard covers the signs used for controlling vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the road. It defines the sign classifications, specifies the numbering system used and sets out the basic design of signs in terms of colour and shape codings. It provides an illustrated index of all signs and sign types which have a standard sign number, and includes sign sizes and reference to other Standards in this series which cover usage of each sign.

NOTES:

1 Traffic signals and pavement markings for general purposes are described in AS 1742.2. Where special pavement markings are specified, e.g. for bus lanes, these are given in the Standard which relates to that particular traffic situation.

2 Detailed specifications for the design and manufacture of signs are given in AS 1743.

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS
1742 Manual of uniform traffic control devices
1742.2 Part 2: Traffic control devices for general use
1742.3 Part 3: Traffic control devices for works on roads
1742.4 Part 4: Speed controls
1742.5 Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs
1742.6 Part 6: Service and tourist signs for motorists
1742.7 Part 7: Railway crossings
1742.8 Part 8: Freeways
1742.9 Part 9: Bicycle facilities
1742.10 Part 10: Pedestrian control and protection
1742.11 Part 11: Parking controls
1742.12 Part 12: Bus, transit and truck lanes
1742.13 Part 13: Local area traffic management
1743 Road signs—Specifications
1744 Forms of letters and numerals for road signs
2342 Design and use of graphic symbols and public information symbol signs

1.3 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard the following definition applies:

1.3.1 Traffic control device—any sign, signal, pavement marking or other installation placed or erected by a public authority or official body, having the necessary jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding road users.

1.4 CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNS Signs are classified by function as shown in Table 1.1.

TABLE 1.1

SIGN CLASSIFICATION AND FUNCTION

Class	Function
Regulatory signs (Type R)	To regulate the movement of traffic and to indicate when or where a legal requirement applies, failure to comply with which constitutes an offence.
Warning signs (Type W)	To warn road users of unexpected or hazardous conditions on or adjacent to the road.
Guide signs (Type G)	To inform and advise road users of directions, distances, destinations, routes, the location of services for road users, and points of interest
Freeway guide signs (Type GE)	To inform and advise road users on freeways of directions, distances, destinations, routes, the location of services for travellers and other points of interest.
Temporary signs (Type T)	To control, warn and guide road users safely through, around or past work sites on roads and footpaths and to warn and advise of other temporary hazardous conditions which could endanger road users.
Hazard markers (Type D)	To delineate a marked change in the direction of travel or to emphasize the presence of an obstruction.