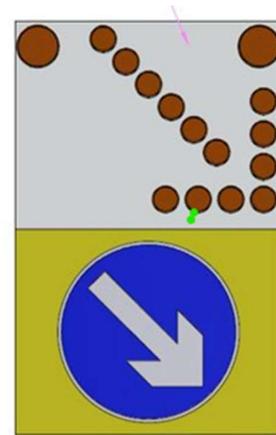


PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO MANUFACTURERS AND USER COMMUNITIES

GUIDANCE ON THE USE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR LIGHT ARROWS AS SET OUT IN CHAPTER 8 OF TRAFFIC SIGNS MANUAL



Introduction

The aim of this Guidance Note is to provide organisations and individuals with information on the requirements for vehicle mounted light arrows for road maintenance vehicles. 'Road maintenance vehicles' are defined as 'a vehicle which is specially designed or adapted for use on a road by or on behalf of a traffic authority for the purposes of road maintenance'.

There are three types of Light Arrows currently permitted for use in England:

- Large light arrows often fitted to road maintenance vehicles (often crash cushion vehicles) which display left or right amber arrows as per diagram 7403 and amber 340mm dia amber wig wags;
- Large light arrows as per the above and/or a red cross with 220mm dia red wig wags as per diagram 7029.

- Mini-light arrows often but not exclusively fitted to small road maintenance vehicles to display left or right amber arrows and amber 220mm dia wig wags.
- All lamps must be tested and certified to BS EN 12352.

This Guidance Note sets out the use of various light arrows and their authorisation requirements .

Department for Transport Authorisation

Any traffic sign used on public highways must either be prescribed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (as amended) (TSRGD) or be specially authorised by the Secretary of State for Transport.

TSRGD sets out specific signs that may be mounted on the back of a road maintenance vehicle in schedule 13, but **these do not permit** the display of illuminated arrows in conjunction with the left/right arrow to diagram 610, the red X nor the sign to diagram 7029.

Accordingly, individual traffic authorities wishing to permit the use of light arrows on vehicles on their roads **must** ensure they receive special authorisation for the **sign faces** from DfT. Suppliers should ensure clients are aware of this requirement.

Authorisation of the sign face will include:

- the layout and quantity of the lamp and overall size of the sign face;
- flash rate and on-off ratio for the arrow aspects and wig-wags

And may give direction on:

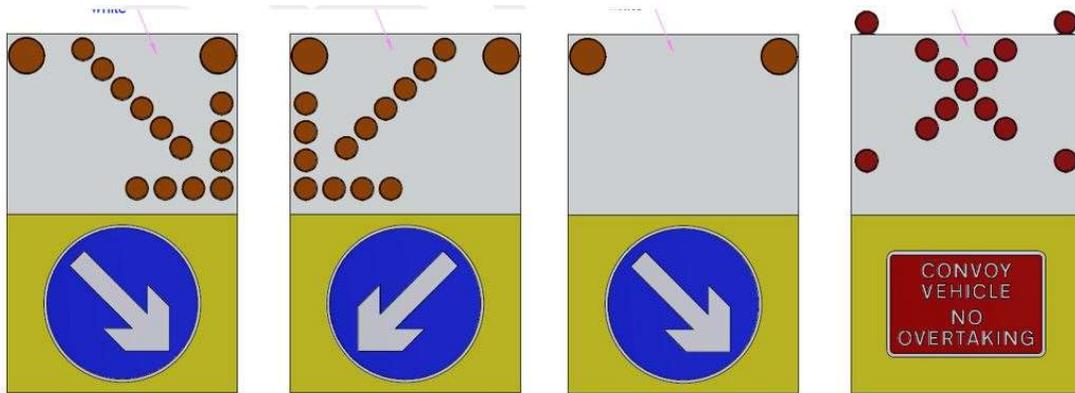
- height of mounting of the sign faces;
- Specific requirements for deployment, for example whether they must be used in conjunction with vehicles carrying the sign to diagram 7403, and only for specific traffic management tasks;

DfT does not provide approval for the operational mechanism and associated manufacturer's control systems. Operational requirements are a matter for the traffic authority to consider specifying through their procurement processes.

Authorisations cannot be granted to manufacturers but only to highway authorities. An authorisation granted to one highway authority cannot be used to permit use of the equipment on roads managed by another authority.

Authorisations granted by the DfT can be found at [Traffic authorisations - Department for Transport \(dft.gov.uk\)](https://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-authorisations). It is recommended that you check for authorisation before deployment. Your supplier should also be able to advise you of the authorisations granted. There are currently no authorisations to any local authorities for local authority roads. Most systems are currently authorised for use on Highways England road network but this should be confirmed prior to deployment by your supplier.

Local authorities wishing to deploy such equipment on their roads should seek signs authorisation from the DfT.



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