

**Statutory Instrument No. 101 of 1970**

**THE MOTOR VEHICLE AND ROAD TRAFFIC PROCLAMATION  
THE ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS AND MARKINGS REGULATIONS, 1970**

(Published on the 27th November, 1970)

In the exercise of the powers vested in him by section 54 read with section 32 of the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Proclamation (Chapter 168), His Excellency the President has been pleased to make the following regulations —

**Citation**

1. These regulations may be cited as the Road Traffic Signs, Signals, and Markings Regulations, 1970.

**Application**

2. These regulations shall apply throughout Botswana including all townships except where otherwise provided.

**Interpretation**

3. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“loading zone” means an area adjacent to the kerb line reserved exclusively for use by vehicles while loading or unloading passengers or goods;

“traffic island” means any area in a roadway intended either to effect the physical separation and sorting of traffic or for the exclusive use of pedestrians, or both;

“traffic lane” means any one of the parts into which a roadway has been divided by lane lines, each part being of a width sufficient for one moving line of vehicles.

**Signs, Signals and Markings to be Erected or Displayed**

4. The signs, signals and markings which a local authority within its area of jurisdiction shall cause or permit to be erected or displayed for the guidance of all persons using public roads, shall be those prescribed in these regulations.

**Classes of Road Traffic Signs**

5. Road traffic signs shall be of the following classes —

- (a) danger signs;
- (b) prohibitive and mandatory signs;
- (c) de-restriction signs;
- (d) informative signs;
- (e) temporary signs.

**General Requirements for Road Traffic Signs**

6. (1) The types, design, dimensions and colours with which road traffic signs shall conform are indicated, where possible, in the Schedule.

(2) The dimensions indicated are minimum dimensions subject to a tolerance of 5 per cent below the minimum.

(3) Unless otherwise stated and unless peculiarities of site require otherwise, road traffic signs shall be erected at a minimum height of 2 feet 6 inches and a maximum height of 8 feet, measured from the level of the centre line of the roadway to the bottom of the sign. Where two signs are superimposed, the limiting height shall apply to the lower sign.

(4) Where standards and posts are used to bear road traffic signs, they shall be marked in alternate black and white horizontal bands of 9 inches minimum and 12 inches maximum height. On any standard or post every band shall be of the same width.

(5) Where illumination is referred to in these regulations with reference to a road traffic sign, it shall mean illumination, during the times when lights are required to be displayed on vehicles on public roads, by a suitable type of direct lighting or alternatively by the use of materials or devices embodied in the sign itself to give indirect or reflected lighting. Unless specifically prescribed, the illumination of road traffic signs shall be optional where public roads are adequately lighted.

#### **Danger Signs**

7. (1) Danger signs are signs used to indicate conditions which are actually or potentially hazardous and require reduction of speed for safety.

(2) The general shape and design of danger signs are illustrated by signs Nos. 1 and 2 in the Schedule. A closed triangle may be used, provided the centre portion is painted white. In townships the red triangle and the legend, or the red triangle and the ground of these signs, and in other areas the red triangle and the legend, shall be illuminated.

(3) The following signs in the Schedule are comprised in this class and serve the purposes mentioned —

- No. 3 — to give warning of an intersection;
- No. 4 — to give warning of a cross drain or dip intersecting a public road;
- No. 5 — to give warning of an unguarded level crossing of a public road and a rail track;
- No. 6 — to give warning of a gate or barrier across a public road, or barrier at a level crossing of a public road and a rail track;
- No. 7 — to give warning of a gate or barrier and a motor grid gate to the right thereof; the arrow on this sign may be shown at an angle and may be placed on the right to indicate a motor grid gate to the left of a gate or barrier;
- No. 8 — to give warning of a motor grid gate in the roadway;
- No. 9 — to give warning of a bridge having an appreciably narrower roadway width than the adjacent roadway;
- No. 10 — to indicate the proximity of a ferry;
- No. 11 — to indicate that the public road turns about a traffic island;
- No. 12 — to indicate the proximity of a gathering place for children. When this sign is used at a school the word "School" shall appear above the symbol in 3 inch minimum lettering;
- No. 13 — to indicate the proximity of a railway level crossing; to be erected on the public road in the immediate vicinity of the crossing;

No. 14 – alternative sign to No. 13 having flashlights in the angles of the arms.

(4) Signs Nos. 13 and 14 shall be illuminated.

#### **Prohibitive and Mandatory Signs**

8. (1) Prohibitive and mandatory signs are signs conveying an instruction that the use of a public road by traffic or by some particular class of traffic is prohibited or subject to restriction.

(2) The general shape and design of prohibitive and mandatory signs are illustrated by signs Nos. 15, 16 and 17. The circle in sign No. 16 is a hollow circle the inner portion of which may be closed and painted white. The lettering on the rectangle in that sign shall be 3 inches high.

(3) All prohibitive and mandatory signs shall be erected at the point at which the prohibition or restriction they convey is to operate.

(4) In townships the red circle and legend or the red circle and ground of these signs, and in other areas the red circle and legend, shall be illuminated, except where the prohibition or restriction they convey does not operate during the hours of darkness.

(5) The following signs in the Schedule are comprised in this class and serve the purposes mentioned —

No. 18 – to convey that entry of all vehicles is prohibited.

No. 19 – to indicate the direction in which vehicular traffic shall proceed. The arrow may be shown pointing to left or to right. When a “one way” sign is not visible to traffic from all directions it may be supplemented by a “no entry” sign prohibiting entry to any way other than the one way.

No. 20 – to indicate a place where parking of vehicles is at all times prohibited. The minimum height of the lettering shall be 12 inches. Where necessary this sign may be displayed on additional discs of not less than 16 inches diameter. Unless the sign is displayed with its face parallel to the lateral line of the public road, the legend shall be inscribed in a similar manner on both sides of the sign.

No. 21 – to indicate that vehicular traffic must stop and not proceed until authorised to do so by a Customs official.

No. 22 – to indicate by means of a number the maximum rate of speed in miles per hour at which vehicular traffic may proceed. The minimum height of lettering on this sign shall be 8 inches.

No. 23 – to indicate that vehicular traffic must stop at and before crossing any stop-line on the road surface referred to in regulation 15(4) and not proceed until it is safe to do so:

Provided, however, that when this sign is used in conjunction with a stop-line which does not extend the full width of the traffic lane nearest to the left hand kerb, filtration shall be permitted as in regulation 15(4) provided. The minimum height of the lettering of the legend on this sign shall be 8 inches.

No. 24 – an alternative “stop” sign having black lettering of a minimum height of 5 inches on a yellow ground. The disc surmounting the sign shall be red.

- No. 25 – stop sign erected at a level crossing where traffic conditions warrant it and having the same significance as sign No. 23. The minimum height of the lettering of the main legend shall be 8 inches. The number of railway lines may be shown in lettering 5 inches high.
- No. 26 – to indicate the approach to an intersecting public road the traffic on which has a prior right of way. The triangle and disc of the sign shall be red. If a closed triangle is used the centre shall be either white or yellow.
- No. 27 – to indicate that vehicular traffic shall not travel in one direction in greater numbers side by side than there are demarcated traffic lines on that half width of the public road.

#### **De-restriction Signs**

9. (1) The dimensions and colours of de-restriction signs are illustrated and specified in sign No. 16 in the Schedule read with regulation 8(2), and the design is illustrated in sign No. 28.

(2) The following sign in the Schedule is included in this class and serves the purpose mentioned —

- No. 29 – to indicate that a speed limit is raised. The diagonal cross shall be superimposed on the actual sign. The line of the cross shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch nor more than 1 inch in width.

#### **Informative Signs**

10. (1) Informative signs are signs used for the guidance of traffic to convey advance information in regard to the road, or to convey a request for courteous driving.

(2) The general shape design, dimensions and colours of informative signs, which shall be employed except where otherwise specified, are illustrated by signs Nos. 30, 31, 32 and 33.

(3) The following signs in the Schedule shall be used to convey advance information regarding a public road and shall only be used for conditions requiring a reduction of speed for safety —

- No. 34 – curve: the arrow shall point either to the right or to the left according to the direction of the curve indicated.
- No. 35 – road forks to left and right.
- No. 36 – road forks to the left from the straight. The arrow indicating the road that forks from the straight shall be shown on the right if the road forks to the right.
- No. 37 – a road coming into a road in the same direction of travel. The road coming in shall be shown on the right or left as circumstances may require.
- No. 38 – a road joining at right angles. The arrow pointing to the side may show approximately the angle of the junction and shall be shown on the left or right as circumstances may require.
- No. 39 – a road running into another road at right angles or nearly at right angles. In most cases this sign is used for the junction with a major road.

No. 40 – sharp turning to the right; if the turning is to the left the arrow shall point in that direction.

No. 41 – steep descent to left.

No. 42 – steep descent to right.

No. 43 – road narrows.

No. 44 – reverse bend winding to right; the arrow shall be shown to the left to indicate a reverse bend winding in that direction.

(4) The legend or the ground of signs Nos. 34 – 44 (inclusive) shall be illuminated.

(5) The following signs in the Schedule shall be used to convey information or a request for courteous driving.

No. 45 – general:

A sign bearing descriptive characters. The size of the sign is dependent upon the length of the description. Its minimum dimensions shall be 18 inches in height and in width, and the minimum height of the lettering shall be 3 inches.

The sign bearing the legend “cul de sac”, to indicate that the public road runs to a dead end, is an example.

No. 46 – to indicate a pedestrian crossing. The legend “pedestrian crossing” may be inscribed in a similar manner on the reverse of the sign.

No. 47 – direction: to indicate the mileage to a named place. The legend shall be white on a black ground and may be inscribed in a similar manner on the reverse of the sign. The board may be extended to permit the inclusion of an arrow to indicate direction. The minimum height of lettering shall be 4 inches.

Nos. 48-49 – direction: to indicate in advance the direction or distance to a place or places. The legend shall be white on a black ground and the minimum height of lettering shall be 4 inches.

No. 50 – place name: to indicate the name of a place, as, for example, a town. The legend shall be white on a black ground and the minimum height of lettering shall be 6 inches.

No. 51 – descriptive: to convey information of historic, physical or general interest, as, for example, a river name or bridge name. The legend shall be white on a black ground, and the minimum height of the lettering shall be 3 inches.

No. 52 – safety posts: signs to indicate an obstruction, or the limits of the roadway where drivers of vehicular traffic might conceivably be in doubt as to the correct course to follow. The plate shall be 24 inches in height and 6 inches in width. The signs shall be red and white and shall be illuminated. Where reflectors are used they shall be at least 7/8 inch in diameter.

No. 53 – to indicate an area for use as a loading zone. The minimum width of the sign shall be 3 inches, the minimum height of lettering shall be 2 inches, and the legend shall be black on a yellow ground.

## **Temporary Signs**

11. (1) Where applicable, and where it is found necessary, any of the ordinary road traffic signs may be erected as temporary signs; the dimensions may be varied to suit the requirements of the site. Temporary signs shall be removed immediately their indication ceases to be applicable.

(2) The following special signs are prescribed as temporary signs —

No. 54 — road closed: to indicate that the public road is closed to traffic while the sign is displayed. The size of the rectangle shall be 30 inches minimum length, and the width of plate surrounding the hollow circle shall be at least 4 inches. In addition, an advance warning sign of the type of sign No. 55 may be used; the legend may be varied to suit individual requirements, e.g. to "Caution, drive slowly". The legend shall be black on a yellow ground and the height of the lettering shall be at least 4 inches.

This sign shall be erected on a barrier which shall, as far as possible, be coloured white and at least 4 feet in height. It shall extend the full width of the closed portion of the road and shall have at least 3 red signals displayed to oncoming traffic, or shall be suitably illuminated. The illumination shall be at a height of 1 — 4 feet above the roadway.

No. 55 — detour ahead: to indicate that a temporary road deviation has been made: the arrow indicates on which side of the roadway the deviation is to be looked for. The size of the sign shall be the same as for sign No. 54. The legend shall be in black on a yellow ground and the height of the lettering shall be at least 4 inches. The sign shall be erected 100 feet from the barrier in a township area and 500 feet from the barrier in any other area.

Nos. 56-57 — temporary traffic control signs: to control traffic where the temporary restriction of the movement of traffic is necessary. These signs may be made to face alternately "stop" on one side and "go" on the other, and may be either hung from a horizontal pole or fixed to a vertical pole.

For sign No. 56 the legend shall be black on a red ground and for sign No. 57 the legend shall be yellow on a green ground.

No. 58 — temporary cattle crossing sign: to indicate that cattle are crossing or about to cross a public road. The rectangle shall be at least 24 inches in width and in length. The cross shall be black and proportionately of the same size as illustrated. The lettering shall be black and at least 4 inches in height on a yellow background.

This sign shall only be erected when cattle are about to enter the roadway and shall be placed in the centre of the roadway, with one sign each side of and not less than 300 feet from the point of crossing. Immediately after the crossing is completed, these signs shall be removed from the roadway and placed out of sight of traffic.

## **Flash Lights**

12. (1) Flash lights with a periodicity of half to one second shall be erected only for the purpose of drawing attention to a particular road traffic sign of the danger or prohibitive type. Where it is not possible to mount the lens in the road traffic sign, as illustrated by signs numbers 59 and 60, it shall be mounted immediately below the sign.

(2) The lens shall be circular and of 6 inches minimum diameter and shall be lit by a clear traffic lamp of not less than 40 watt capacity. The colour of the signal, other than the signal of a flash light erected at a railway level crossing, shall be yellow or amber and no legend shall appear on the lens.

(3) The signal shall be of such a design as to render the lens clearly visible to oncoming traffic and prevent, as far as possible, the signal from being seen from a direction to which its indication does not apply.

(4) Only one flashing light shall be displayed in any one direction by one road traffic sign.

(5) The flash lights at railway crossings shall be as at present erected and when operating shall have the effect of indicating that vehicular traffic must stop and not proceed until it is safe to do so. The colour of the signals of such flash lights shall be red.

#### **Bollards**

13. (1) Bollards of a suitable type, as illustrated by sign No. 61, may be erected for purposes of illumination and for the guidance of traffic. A bollard shall be sited in such a position that approaching vehicular traffic shall pass it on the left. It shall always be erected on a physical obstruction and at least 2 feet of its height shall be illuminated by indirect or reflected lighting. The height of the bollard shall be at least 3 feet above the base on which it is mounted and the upper edge of the illuminated portion shall not be less than 3 feet, and the lower edge not more than 18 inches, above the level of the centre line of the roadway. The width of the illuminated surface facing oncoming traffic shall not be less than 5 inches.

(2) The head piece of the bollard may be illuminated and designed to incorporate the legends "Keep Left", "Cross Here" or any legend referred to in these regulations which may be incorporated in a road traffic sign that may be erected on the left hand side of the road.

#### **Traffic Markings**

14. (1) Traffic markings are devices, lines, patterns, words or colours embedded in the surface or applied or attached to the road surface or to kerbing or to an adjacent object officially placed for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic.

(2) Traffic markings shall only be placed by a local authority.

(3) Traffic markings shall be coloured to contrast with the area immediately surrounding them, that is to say, on a concrete roadway a black colour may be used, and on a bituminous surface a white colour. Where a white colour is specified in these regulations, it shall be read subject to the above qualifications.

(4) The laying down of traffic markings shall, except in the case of pedestrian crossings at points, other than intersections, where a prescribed road traffic sign, flash light or bollard is erected, be permissive:

Provided that in the case of stop streets, where the surface of the roadway is capable of being marked with a stop line as in regulation 15(4) provided, it shall be so marked.

(5) Traffic markings may be used to supplement the information conveyed by road traffic signs:

Provided that parking lines in the circumstances mentioned in the provisos to regulation 15(7) (c), barrier lines, centre lines, lane lines and pedestrian crossings may be used without an accompanying road traffic sign.

(6) Subject to the provisions of regulation 15(4) a minimum of 75 per cent of the area of a full line or mark shall be considered a full line or mark.

#### **Lines**

15. (1) (a) A barrier line shall be a continuous white line at least 4 inches wide and shall be laid down to convey definite requirement or warning, e.g. short horizontal or vertical sight distance, course to be taken at certain hazards, etc.

(b) A barrier line may also be laid down in combination with a centre or lane line at a distance of not less than 2 inches or more than 6 inches from it.

(2) A centre line shall be a broken white line of 4 inches minimum width, used to mark the middle, or approximate middle, of the roadway. Sections of a centre line may be used for regulatory purposes and control at intersections.

(3) A lane line shall be a broken white line of 4 inches minimum width and shall be used for guidance of traffic by the demarcating of traffic lanes.

(4) A stop line shall be a continuous white line of 6 inches minimum width. It shall extend at least half way across the roadway on the left hand side for approaching traffic and shall be sited between the centre line and the kerb line. A stop line shall only be laid down at points where authorised control is enforced by a road traffic sign or by a police or traffic officer on point duty. Where filtration against an authorised control is allowed, the stop line shall not extend the full width of the traffic lane nearest to the traffic lane nearest to the left hand kerb.

(5) Pedestrian crossing lines shall be continuous white lines of 4 inches minimum width. They shall be laid down to form a lane of 6 feet minimum width across the entire roadway only at or immediately adjoining intersections.

(6) Pedestrian crossings, consisting of a distinctly marked pattern, as shown in sign No. 62, may be laid down at points other than intersections. At such points pedestrians shall have the prior right of way to the use of the roadway only when the crossing is controlled by a road traffic signal or any other authorised control.

(7) (a) Parking lines shall be of 4 inches minimum width. Where parking is totally prohibited the line demarcating the area shall be a continuous yellow line. Where parking is controlled, the parking lines shall be white and shall clearly indicate the parking bays.

(b) Parking shall always be kept parallel to the kerb line unless angle parking is defined and demarcated by means of white parking lines. Angle parking where defined by white lines shall be parallel to, and within, such white lines.

(c) Parking lines shall be laid down only where a road traffic sign of a prescribed type is displayed and visible in the vicinity:

Provided that such sign need not be displayed at a parking bay which is controlled by a parking meter erected or placed on the kerb, footpath or side walk adjoining such parking bay:

Provided further that where parking is totally prohibited continuous yellow lines may be used instead of, or in conjunction with, "no parking" signs.



#### **Other Signs and Markings**

16. (1) The only wording to be used for traffic markings shall be wording required for exercise of traffic control.

(2) The letters shall be white; but in the case of "no parking" areas they shall be yellow.

(3) "Stop", where laid down, shall be in the line of vision of oncoming traffic in the left hand width of roadway immediately before a stop line. The height of the letters shall be 3 feet minimum.

(4) "No Parking" may be laid down, but only within a demarcated non-parking area or on the kerb. The height of the lettering shall be 4 inches minimum.

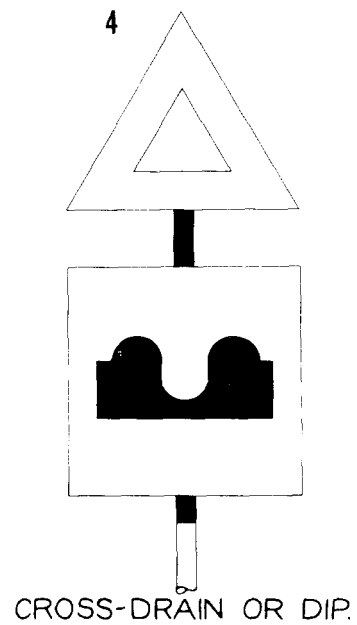
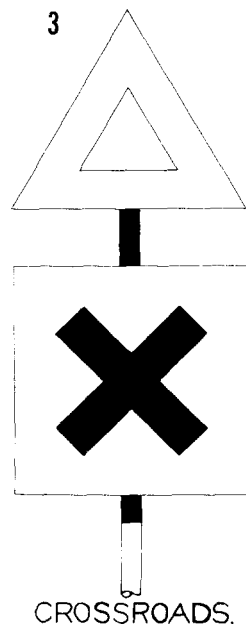
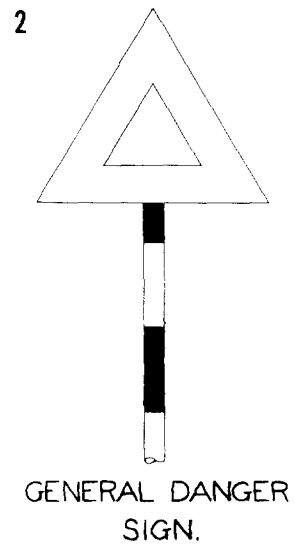
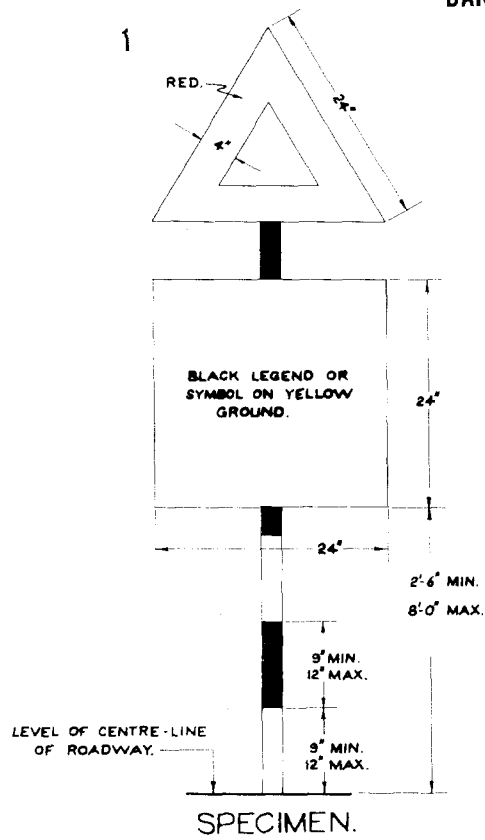
(5) Loading zones may be demarcated by means other than by line marking: either the roadway may be marked in wording or traffic signs of the type prescribed in sign No. 53 may be erected.

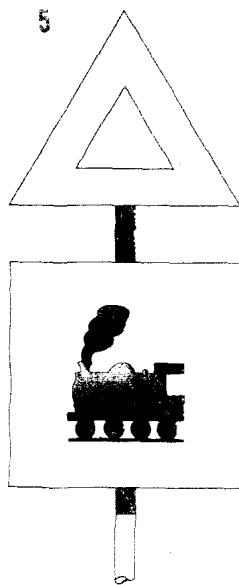
(6) Markings may be made in the roadway at approaches to dangerous areas or on physical obstructions in or near the roadway, such as kerbs of traffic islands, overhead bridge supports, walls of bridges, culvert headwalls, guard rails, poles, trees, rocks, etc., and should be in alternate bands of black and white.

(7) Where necessary, arrows may be laid down for directional marking in the roadway. Where a line of arrows is marked on the roadway to indicate a route direction, such line shall be white and shall be located in the centre of the traffic lane.

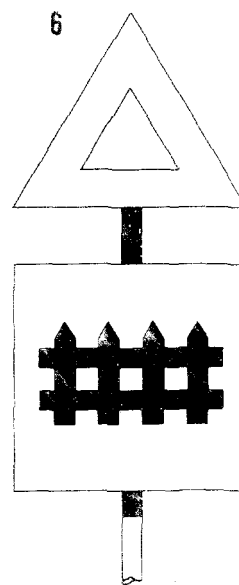
#### **SCHEDULE**

# DANGER SIGNS

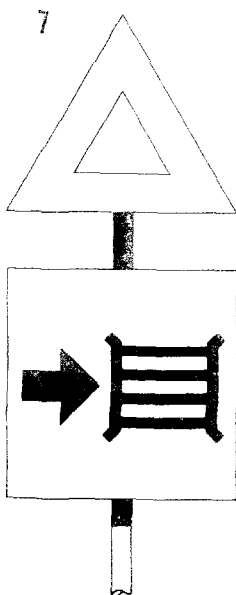




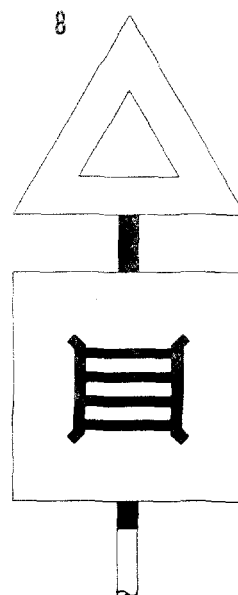
UNGUARDED  
LEVEL CROSSING.



GATE OR LEVEL  
CROSSING BARRIER.

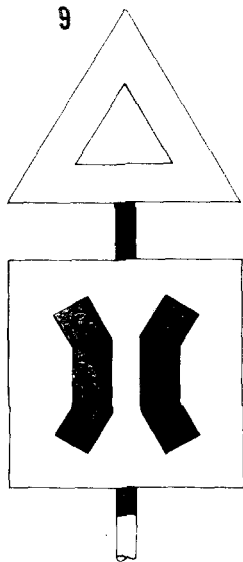


GATE AND  
MOTOR GATE.



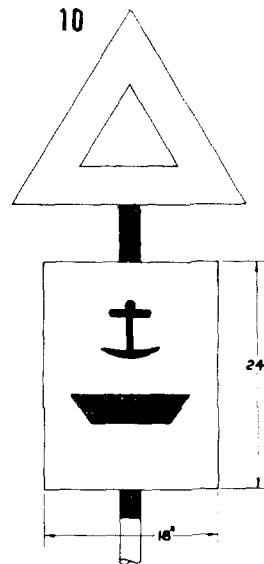
MOTOR GATE.

9



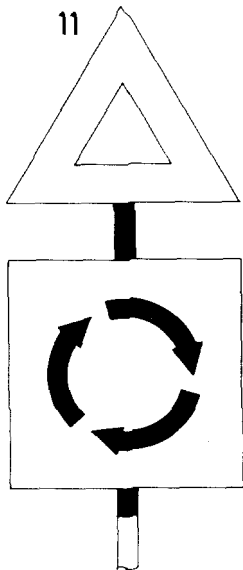
NARROW BRIDGE.

10



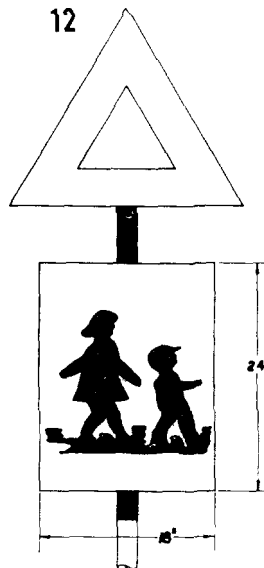
FERRY.

11



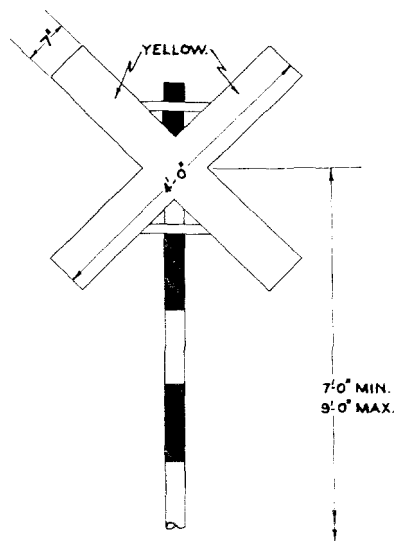
TRAFFIC CIRCLE.

12



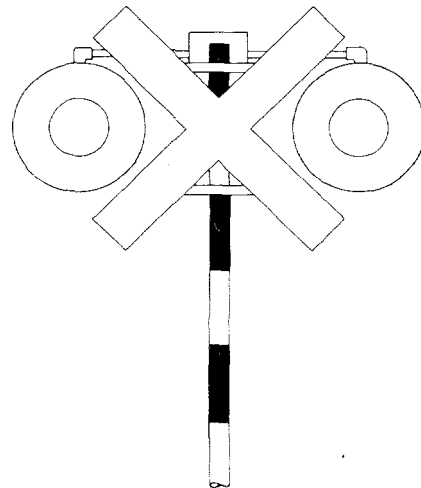
CHILDREN.

13



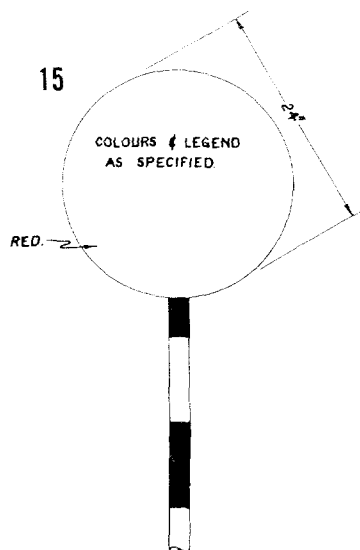
LEVEL CROSSING.

14



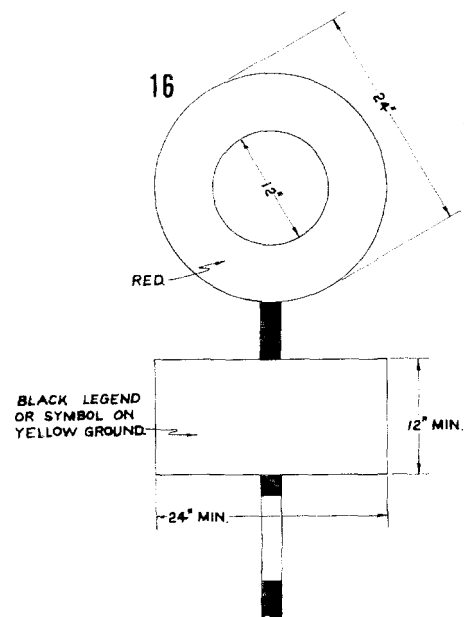
LEVEL CROSSING WITH  
FLASHING LIGHTS.

15

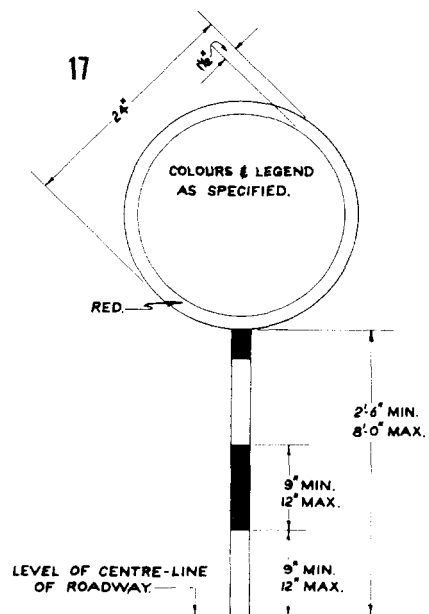


SPECIMEN.

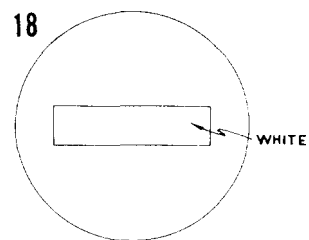
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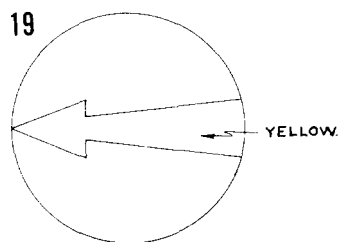
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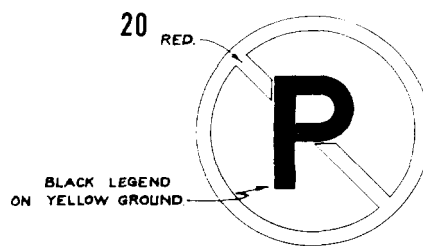
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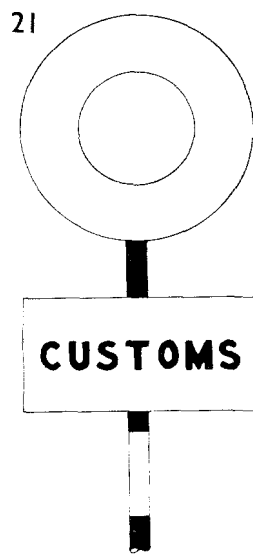
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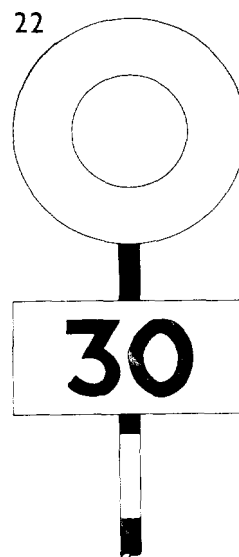
ONE WAY.



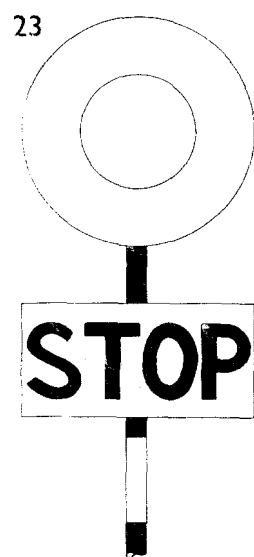
NO PARKING.



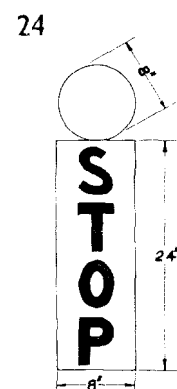
CUSTOMS STOP.



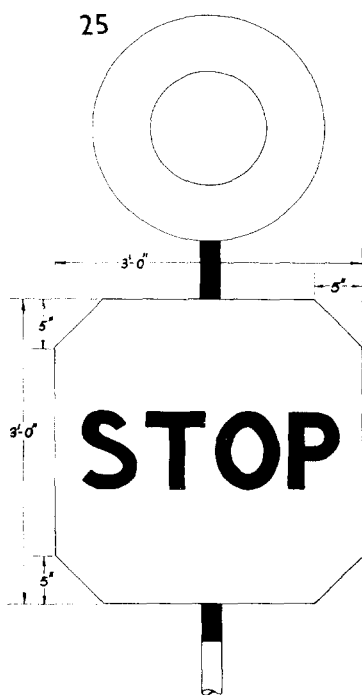
SPEED LIMIT.



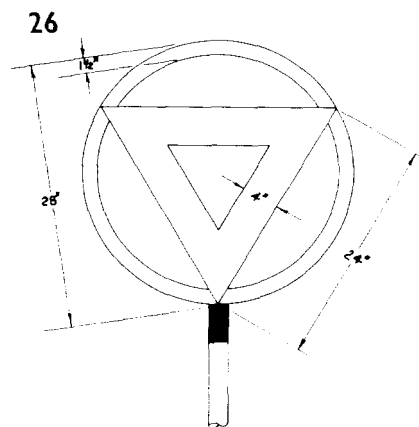
STOP SIGN.



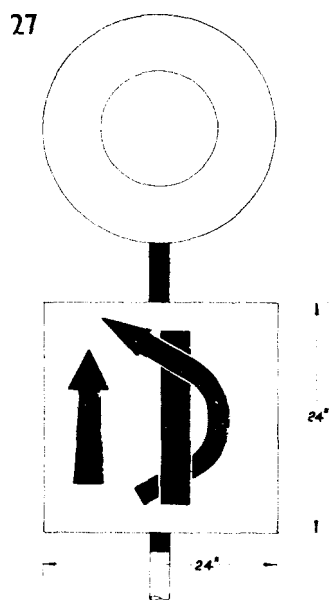
ALTERNATIVE  
STOP SIGN.



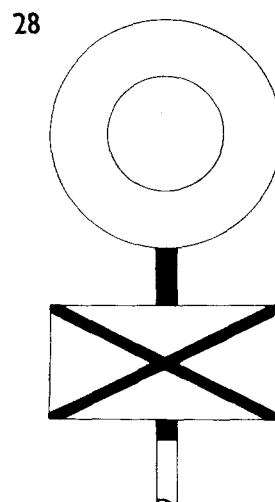
LEVEL CROSSING  
STOP SIGN.



YIELD SIGN.



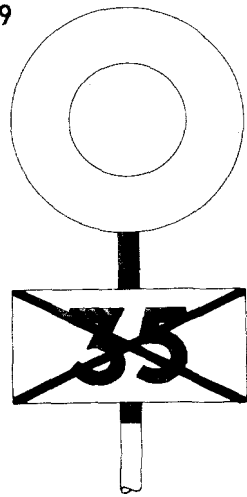
NO OVERTAKING.



DE-RESTRICTION.  
NOTICE.

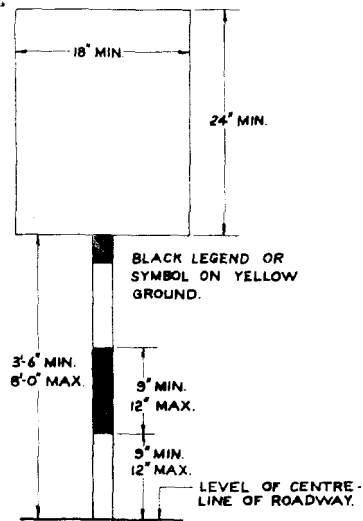


29



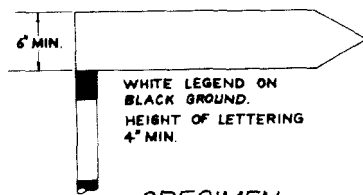
SPEED  
DE-RESTRICTION.

30



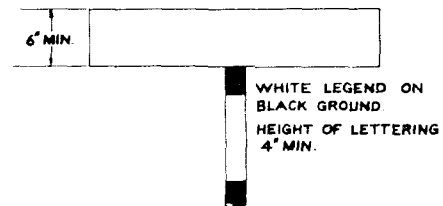
SPECIMEN.

31



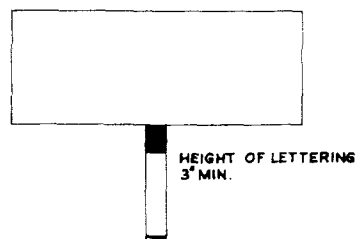
SPECIMEN.

32



SPECIMEN.

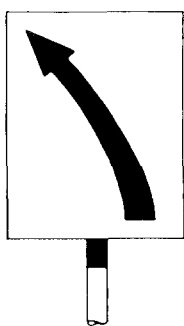
33



SPECIMEN.

# INFORMATIVE SIGNS

34



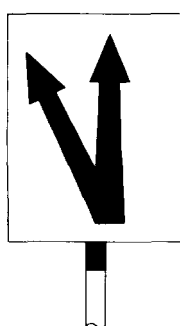
CURVE.

35



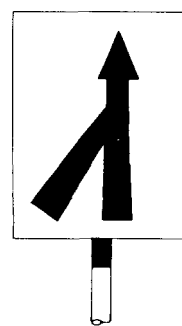
FORK.

36



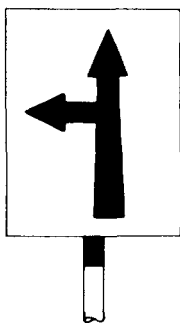
FORK.

37



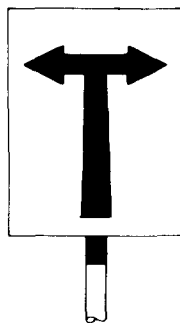
JUNCTION.

38



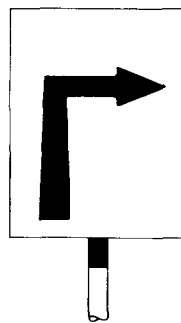
JUNCTION.

39



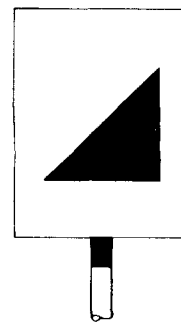
T-JUNCTION.

40



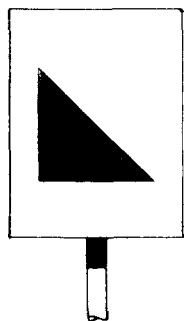
SHARP TURNING  
TO RIGHT.

41



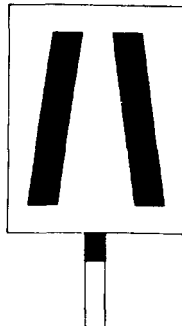
STEEP DESCENT  
TO LEFT.

42



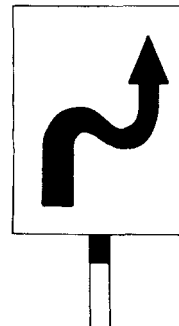
STEEP DESCENT  
TO RIGHT.

43



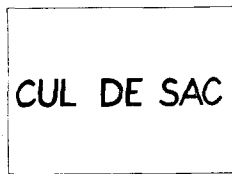
ROAD NARROWS.

44



S-BEND WINDING  
TO RIGHT.

45



GENERAL.

46



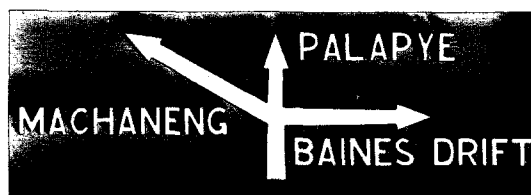
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING.

47



DIRECTION.

48



DIRECTION.

49



DIRECTION.

50



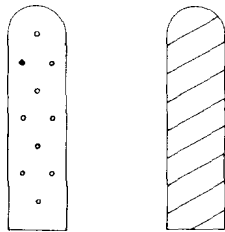
PLACE NAME.

51



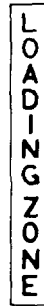
DESCRIPTIVE.

52



SAFETY POSTS.

53

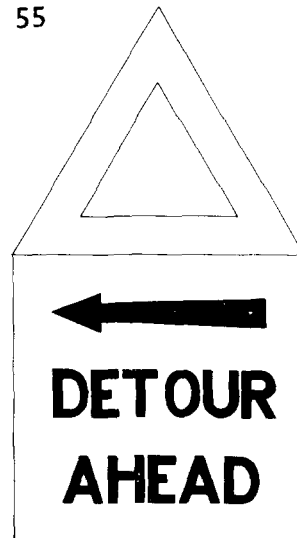


TEMPORARY SIGNS

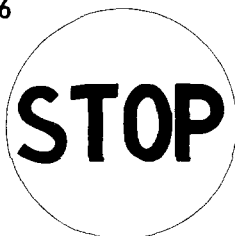
54



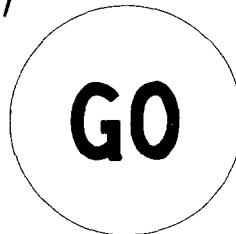
55



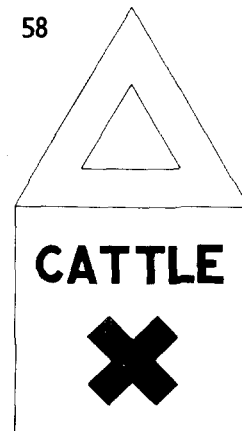
56



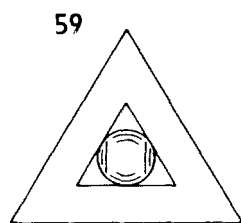
57



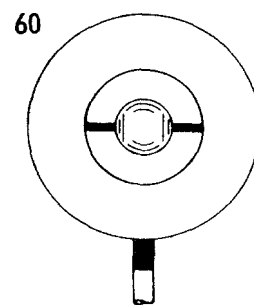
58



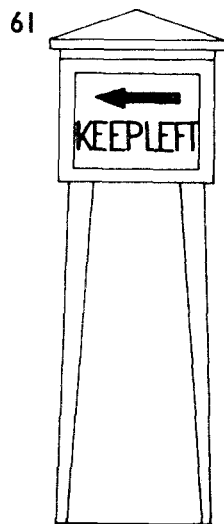
## TRAFFIC MARKINGS



DANGER WITH  
FLASHLIGHT.



PROHIBITIVE WITH  
FLASHLIGHT.



BOLLARDS.



HERRINGBONE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING.

P.L. STEENKAMP,  
Acting Permanent Secretary

Office of the President,  
GABORONE.  
15th November, 1970.  
L 2/7/13 (II).