1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals: some issues for consideration

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1. «A rectangular panel containing the sign»

2. Implementation of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals
«A rectangular panel containing the sign»
Convention on Road Signs and Signals

- Panels
- Symbols
- Additional panels
- Road sign(s) contained in a rectangular panel
Symbols:

A. 8
A. 9
A. 10a
A. 10b
A. 11a
A. 11b
A. 12a
A. 12b
A. 13
A. 14
A. 15a
A. 15b
A. 16

Panel:
Panel:

Symbols:
Additional panels:
Road signs:
India:

«A rectangular panel containing the sign»
Thailand

TR
Original 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals:

- No provision/mention re. “signs contained in a rectangular panel”

- Intentions (?):

  a. Road signs are only specified in the Convention or
  b. Road signs are made up of panels, symbols and additional panels
  c. Rectangular panels are acceptable
7. Ad article 8 of the Convention

Paragraph 3

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“During the transitional period of ten years prescribed in item 4 of this annex, and thereafter in exceptional circumstances to facilitate the interpretation of signs, an inscription may be added in a rectangular panel below the sign or in a rectangular panel containing the sign; such an inscription may also be placed on the sign itself, if this does not make the sign more difficult to understand for drivers who cannot understand the inscription.”

4. Ad Article 3 of the Convention (Obligations of the Contracting Parties)

Paragraph 3

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“Any sign, symbol, installation or marking which does not conform to the system prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement shall be replaced within ten years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement. During this period, in order to familiarize road-users with the system prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement, previous signs, symbols and inscriptions may be retained beside those prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement.”
1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals

ARTICLE 8

1. In order to facilitate international understanding of signs, the system of signs and signals prescribed in this Convention is based on the use of shapes, and colours characteristic of each class of sign and, wherever possible, on the use of graphic symbols rather than inscriptions. Where Contracting Parties consider it necessary to modify the symbols prescribed, the modifications made shall not alter their essential characteristics.

1. bis. In cases where variable message signs are used, the inscriptions and symbols reproduced on them must also conform to the system of signs and signals prescribed in this Convention. When, however, the technical requirements of a given type of system of signs and signals so warrant, particularly so as to ensure satisfactory legibility, and provided that no error of interpretation is possible, the prescribed dark-coloured signs or symbols may appear in a light colour, light-coloured backgrounds then being replaced by dark backgrounds. The red colour of the symbol of a sign and its border shall not be changed.

2. Contracting Parties wishing to adopt, in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1 (a) (ii), of this Convention any sign or symbol, prescribed in this Convention shall endeavour to secure regional agreement on such new sign or symbol.

3. Nothing in this Convention shall prohibit the addition, mainly in order to facilitate the interpretation of signs, of an inscription in a rectangular panel below the sign or in a rectangular panel containing the sign, such an inscription may also be placed on the sign itself, if this does not make the sign more difficult to understand for drivers who cannot understand the inscription.

4. Where the competent authorities consider it advisable to make the meaning of a sign or symbol more explicit or to limit the application of a sign to certain periods, this can be done by inscriptions on the sign as provided in Annex 1 to this Convention or on an additional panel. If regulatory signs are to be restricted to certain road-users or if certain road-users are to be exempt from the regulation, this is done through additional panels according to Annex 1, section H, paragraph 4 (panels H, 5; H, 5; and H, 6).
Some issues to consider:

1. «Rectangular panels» legitimate?
2. All road signs or selected categories?
3. Any background colour?
4. Size/dimensions/proportions?
5. Inscriptions? Necessary?
6. How many signs per panel?
7. Amendments? National legislation, experience?
8. WP.1 study group?
Implementation of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals
Bicycles or buses or...
What is to be done by WP.1 to ensure a more effective implementation?