



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 March 2014

English
Original: English, French, and
Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 24–26 March 2014

Item 7(b) of the provisional agenda

Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968):

Amendment Proposals on Variable Message Signs (VMS)

Amendment Proposals on Variable Message Signs (VMS)

Submitted by the Government of Spain

This document, consolidates Informal document No. 5 (September 2013) with ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2012/1/Add.1.

I. Chapter I, General Provisions, Article 1, Definitions

A. (w) A road sign is said to be:

- (i) “Fixed” if it is a sign for the purpose of displaying a number of inscriptions and symbols in a specific place/ under a permanent basis; and
- (ii) “Variable” if it is a sign for the purpose of displaying a number of inscriptions and symbols that may be changed or switched on or off as required.

B. (y) “Unit of information” means a specific group of inscriptions and symbols that refer together to the same aspect of a traffic issue, for example, “dangerous congestion”, “in the tunnel entrance” or “from April 9 to April 11”.

C. Chapter II, Road Signs, Article 8

1.ter

Variable Message Signs shall only be used as a temporary measure. Issues which require long-term use in a static location should always be shown on permanent (fixed) road signs.

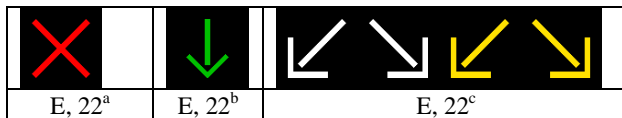
II. Annex 1, Road Signs, Section E, Special Regulation Signs, sub-Section II, Descriptions, point 1, Signs indicating a regulation or danger warning applying to one or more traffic lanes

- (iv) E, 22a “Traffic may not proceed along the lane over which it is placed.”
- (v) E, 22b “Traffic may proceed along the lane over which it is placed.”
- (vi) E, 22c “The lane is about to be closed to traffic and the road users on that lane must move over to the lane indicated by the arrow.”

A. Annex 3, “E” Signs

Add:

Symbols for Annex 3:



B. Chapter II, Road Signs

Article 8. bis

- 1. When used, symbols should always provide the main unit of information in any VMS message.**
 - 2. When a VMS has such a capability, graphical elements (symbols) should always be used as much as possible to replace the need for text.**
 - 3. If used, a regulatory road sign should not require any supporting text to be clearly understood by road users.**
 - 4. Danger warning messages (using the red triangle) should generally not be used when the dangerous spot or stretch of road is far from the VMS (for instance, more than 5 km). When using words in danger warning road signs, place the information about the nature of the danger first and then brief complementary advice can be added.**
 - 5. When a VMS is used to inform about a situation at some distance (for instance, 5 km or more) or in the future (e.g. expected road works), additional information (e.g. distance, or respectively an indication of date and time) is necessary. The recommended order of the message is the following:
 - (i) Information about the nature of the event;**
 - (ii) Distance and/or time indication;**
 - (iii) Additional information (e.g. advice, cause).****
 - 6. VMS should not display scrolling, alternating or sequential inscriptions and symbols.**
 - 7. The meaning of a symbol should not also be shown in text in a VMS message, unless required to educate drivers as to the meaning of a new road sign.**
 - 8. Use only well-known and international abbreviations (e.g. 'km' for kilometre, 'min' for minutes, etc.).**
 - 9. To ensure they are safe for drivers to read, VMS displays should contain no more than 4 units of information.**
 - 10. A VMS should be blank when no traffic related information has to be displayed. An exception could be the display of dots or the time to indicate that the VMS is working.**
 - 11. Commercial/advertising displays shall not permitted.**
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