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### Parking signs and marking - Information

The Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (Road User Rule) and the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004 (TCD Rule) both impact on parking.

The Road User Rule describes road user parking obligations and the TCD Rule describes how road controlling authorities (RCAs) ensure road users understand specific parking rules applying at any location. This note highlights some changes in practice affecting parking arising from these rules including their amendments the most recent being the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices Amendment 2010 (TCD Rule Amendment 2010). For more general descriptions and access details for the Road User Rule and TCD Rule see *Traffic note 30* and *36* respectively.

#### General requirements for parking signs, markings and other devices

Traffic control devices including parking signs, markings and other devices, whether used singly or in combination, must be fit for purpose. This includes being appropriate for the environment, conveying a clear and consistent message and being placed so they are visible and, where they contain words or symbols, legible to road users allowing adequate time for the intended response [clause 3.1 of the TCD Rule].

Unless the TCD Rule provides otherwise, a traffic control device authorised by any enactment (including the TCD Rule) at the time of its installation may continue in use if it remains in good repair and is adequate for its intended use. Generally this should mean most parking signs remain valid until replaced or parking markings remarked. However, some changes to definitions and parking rules could affect the legal meaning of the signs or markings or alter their application from that originally intended by the RCA. Therefore, it is important RCAs review their parking signs and markings after amendments to the Road User Rule, TCD Rule or other legislation to ensure they remain adequate and fit for purpose.

#### Definitions

Definitions appear in Part 2 of the TCD Rule and clause 1.5 of the Road User Rule. Many appear in both rules. Readers should check these definitions to ensure they are aware of changes made. In regard to parking, the following bold, italicised words are of particular interest:

- ***approved disabled person's parking permit***
  - ***carpool*** and ***motor home***
  - ***goods vehicle***: (often referred to previously as a goods service vehicle, this class of vehicle now includes a motor vehicle '*used for the collection or delivery of goods in the course of trade*' in addition to its former '*designed exclusively or principally for the carriage of goods*')
  - ***loading zone***
  - ***parking***
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- **parking machine:** a more generic term introduced to cover changing technology in this area includes a parking meter and any other device used to collect payment in exchange for parking a vehicle in a place for a limited time
- **public holiday:** (Saturdays and Sundays are not public holidays unless they are one of the eleven public holidays declared in section 44(1) of the Holidays Act 2003. See further comments below)
- **reserved parking**
- **road margin:** (clause 6.2 of the Road User Rule requires drivers park on the road margin if reasonably practicable unless the RCA indicates otherwise. This compares with regulation 35(1)(b) of the Traffic Regulations 1976 which used the term 'grass verge')
- **special vehicle lane:** (including *bus lane*, *cycle lane*, *light rail vehicle lane*, and *transit lane*)
- **supplementary sign, plate, or notice:** introduced to clarify the issue of numbers of signs permitted at one location
- **standing**
- **traffic island:** (clause 6.7 of the Road User Rule prohibits stopping, standing or parking on traffic islands or flush medians)
- **zone parking** and **zone restriction.**

The TCD Rule Amendment 2010 introduced to schedule 1 a new format for describing the way in which parking signs can be designed. It also defines symbols and terms appearing on parking signs and RCAs should review these to ensure existing and proposed parking signs convey the intended message to road users. Examples include:

- **bus stop:** a stop for buses to allow the loading or unloading of passengers or a terminus or stage point of a bus route and the driver must stay with the vehicle
- **pick-up drop-off:** the area is available only for picking up waiting passengers or dropping off passengers and the driver must stay with the vehicle
- **angle parking:** the area must be used with the vehicle at an angle to the direction of vehicle travel past the space [the direction of parking, if specified, must be defined by the terms 'forward in' or 'reverse in']

### Special vehicle lanes

Clause 6.6 of the Road User Rule prohibits stopping, standing or parking on special vehicle lanes unless the vehicle belongs to a class which is permitted to use the lane and stopping or standing is permitted by signs or markings. The exception is primarily for bus stops on bus lanes or transit lanes.

- All special vehicle lanes must be marked with the appropriate symbol at the start of the lane and after each intersection along it and may be marked at additional locations along the lane.
- Marking of no stopping restrictions on 24 hour, seven day special vehicle lanes – most frequently cycle lanes – are not legally required. However, RCAs may find they will need to mark at least critical lengths of new lanes to reinforce the restriction, particularly during a period of transition.
- Installing 'Clearway' signs on special vehicle lanes operating only for specific periods is not legally required – effectively special vehicle lane signs operate as clearway signs.
- Special vehicle lane signs must appear above all parking signs when installed at the same location.

### Marking of parking limitations

Where marking is used, the TCD Rule requires parking spaces or areas which are limited to a class or classes of vehicle (eg loading zones, reserved parking) to be marked in yellow. Other parking areas when marked must use white.

The TCD Rule Amendment 2010 allows reductions in the number of signs previously required for linear parking restrictions providing the length of the restriction is marked. Other than for bus stops, the marking

must include words, letters or symbols that describe the restriction. Schedule 2 of the TCD Rule describes some of these markings and also describes standard lettering that may be used for this purpose.

### **Parking and public holidays**

A sign incorporating the letter 'P' or 'P\$' on the top of the sign or a loading zone applies between 8am and 6pm Monday through Sunday but not on public holidays (see clauses 1.5 and 6.4(2) of the Road User Rule).

This allows a more uniform approach to be taken with the supplementary messages. RCAs are encouraged to use an inclusive description rather than exclusive. For example, a P60 which applies on Monday to Saturday but not Sundays and public holidays is better signposted as 'P60 / Mon-Sat' than 'P60 / Except Sunday'.

### **Parking zones**

The change in the TCD Rule Amendment 2010 with the greatest impact arises from the new rules describing parking zones. A parking zone is an underlying restriction that applies within the specified area unless a different parking limit (eg no stopping restriction, loading zone, reserved parking area or time-restricted parking area) occurs within the zone. The effect of this is to remove the need for zone parking signs to be installed at each end of every different parking restriction within the zone. In addition, repeater signs are now only required at 200m intervals rather than the previous 100m.

### **Signs on one pole**

The TCD Rule Amendment 2010 introduced a change in the number of parking signs permitted at one place. Subclause 12.5(6) states 'More than one but no more than four parking signs, or a special vehicle lane sign and no more than three parking signs, may be erected on the same pole ... provided that the order in which they appear conforms with the specifications contained in series R6 parking signs in Schedule 1'.

Subclause 4.5(1) of the TCD Rule, which provides for multiple signs where their orientation is relevant to only one direction of approaching traffic, is unlikely to affect parking signs.

### **Format of signs**

Parking signs are described as series R6 in Part 3, schedule 1 of the TCD Rule. A significant change in the way the signs are described occurred with the TCD Rule Amendment 2010. Because of the extent and nature of the changes it is not appropriate to attempt a description in this note and readers are urged to access the TCD Rule Amendment 2010 at:

<http://nzta.govt.nz/resources/rules/docs/traffic-control-devices-amendment-2010.html>

or

<http://nzta.govt.nz/resources/rules/docs/traffic-control-devices-amendment-2010.pdf>

Guidance for practitioners is also contained in the *Traffic control devices manual* Part 7: Parking control (under revision January 2011) which can be found at:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/traffic-control-devices-manual/part-7-parking-control/part-7-index.html>