1962 No. 2388

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1962

Made - - - -	*29th October* 1962
Laid before Parliament	*31st October* 1962
Coming into Operation	*1st November* 1962

The Secretary of State and the Minister of Transport (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister"), acting jointly in exercise of their powers under section 51 of the Road Traffic Act 1960(**a**) and of all other powers them enabling in that behalf and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 260 (2) of that Act, hereby make the Regulations set out in Part I of this Instrument; and the Secretary of State (as respects the erection of traffic signs such as are prescribed by the said Regulations on roads in Scotland) and the Minister (as respects the erection of such signs on roads in England or Wales), each acting in exercise of his powers under section 22 (1) of the said Act of 1960 as amended by section 12 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1962(**b**) and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, hereby give the Directions set out in Part II of this Instrument:—

PART I.—TRAFFIC SIGNS (SPEED LIMITS) REGULATIONS

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1962.

2.—(1) The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1961(**c**) and the Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Regulations 1961(**d**) are hereby revoked.

(2) A traffic sign which, immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations, is situated on or near any road—

(*a*) if it is a sign shown in any diagram set out in either of the Schedules to the Traffic Signs (30 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Regulations 1957(**e**) and if it then complies with the provisions relating thereto by virtue of those Regulations, shall be treated as prescribed by these Regulations until 4th August 1965;

(*b*) if it is a sign shown in any diagram set out in the Schedule to the Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Regulations 1958(**f**) and if it then complies with the provisions relating thereto by virtue of those Regulations, shall be treated as prescribed by these Regulations until 7th January 1967;

(**a**) 8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 16.
(**b**) 10 & 11 Eliz. 2. c. 59.
(**c**) S.I. 1961/2375 (1961 III, p. 4369).
(**d**) S.I. 1961/2376 (1961 III, p. 4377).
(**e**) S.I. 1957/274 (1957 II, p. 2088).
(**f**) S.I. 1958/302 (1958 II, p. 2101).

(*c*) if it is a sign shown in diagram 327 or diagram 401 set out in Schedule 1 to the Traffic Signs Regulations 1957(**a**) or in any diagram set out in the Schedule to the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1960(**b**), the Schedule to the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1961 or the Schedule to the Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Regulations 1961 and if it then complies with the provisions relating thereto by virtue of those Regulations, shall be treated as prescribed by these Regulations until the expiration of 5 years from their coming into operation.

3.—(1) In these Regulations—

" hours of darkness " means the time between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise, and

" road " means any length of road.

(2) In these Regulations references to a speed limit in relation to a road are references to a limit of speed on the driving of motor vehicles on that road—

(*a*) imposed by virtue of the road's being a restricted road for the purposes of section 19 of the Road Traffic Act 1960, or

(*b*) imposed by an order under section 11 of the Road Traffic Act 1962 or deemed to have been so imposed by virtue of subsection (6) of that section.

(3) Any reference in the following Regulations to a numbered diagram is a reference to the diagram of that number set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(4) Any reference in Regulations 6, 7, 8 or 9 of these Regulations to a traffic sign shown in a numbered diagram is a reference to a sign of the size, colour and type shown in that diagram, and in so far as it is a reference to, or a reference which includes, a sign shown in diagram 1, diagram 2 or diagram 3, it shall be treated as a reference to such a sign which indicates a speed limit in force on a road in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 4 (*a*) of these Regulations.

(5) The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if for the purposes of section 38 of that Act these Regulations were an Act of Parliament and the Regulations revoked by Regulation 2 of these Regulations were Acts of Parliament thereby repealed.

Signs for indicating speed limits

4. Subject to Regulation 5 of these Regulations, for the purposes of section 22 (1) of the Road Traffic Act 1960 (which, as amended by section 12 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1962, imposes a duty on a competent authority, inter alia, to erect signs for indicating speed restrictions on roads) every traffic sign for conveying information to traffic—

(*a*) that a speed limit is in force on a road—

(i) shall indicate by means of appropriate numerals what the speed limit is, and

(ii) shall be of the size, colour and type, and shall otherwise conform with the provisions as to the position, size, colour and type of numerals, shown in diagram 1, diagram 2 or diagram 3; and

(**a**) Part I of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1957, S.I. 1957/13 (1957 II, p. 2001). (**b**) S.I. 1960/1124 (1960 III, p. 2947). (**c**) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(*b*) that a speed limit is not in force on a road shall be of the size, colour and type shown in diagram 4, diagram 5 or diagram 6.

Variations in dimensions relating to signs

5. Any variation in a dimension specified in any of the diagrams set out in the Schedule to these Regulations shall be treated as permitted by these Regulations if the variation—

(*a*) in the case of a dimension so specified as over twelve inches, does not exceed 5% of that dimension ;

(*b*) in the case of a dimension so specified as two inches or as over two inches but not as over twelve inches, does not exceed 10% of that dimension ; or

(*c*) in the case of a dimension so specified as under two inches, does not exceed 15% of that dimension.

Illumination of signs

6.—(1) The following provisions as to illumination shall during the hours of darkness apply to a traffic sign shown in diagram 1, diagram 2, diagram 4 and diagram 5.

(2) Where any such sign is erected on a trunk road or on a classified road and is so erected within one hundred and fifty yards of a street lamp, the sign shall, subject to the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Regulation, be illuminated by a means of lighting which is fitted to the sign unless—

(*a*) in the case of a sign so erected on a trunk road, the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the Minister is satisfied that either—

(i) the sign is so illuminated by street lighting during the hours of darkness as to be visible within a reasonable distance to drivers of approaching motor vehicles, or

(ii) the sign may be illuminated by the use of reflectors or reflecting material in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulations 8 and 9 of these Regulations ; and

(*b*) in the case of a sign so erected on a classified road, it has been agreed in writing by or on behalf of the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the Minister that the sign is illuminated in the manner specified in head (i) of the foregoing sub-paragraph or that the sign may be illuminated in the manner specified in head (ii) of that sub-paragraph.

(3) Where any such sign is erected on a trunk road or on a classified road and is so erected otherwise than within one hundred and fifty yards of a street lamp, or where any such sign is erected on a road not being a trunk road or a classified road, the sign shall be illuminated either—

(*a*) by a means of lighting which is fitted to the sign ; or

(*b*) by the use of reflectors or reflecting material in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulations 8 and 9 of these Regulations,

unless—

(i) in the case of a sign so erected on a trunk road, the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the Minister is satisfied that the sign need not be so illuminated, or

(ii) in the case of a sign so erected on a classified road, or a sign erected on a road not being a classified road, it has been agreed in writing by or on behalf of the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the Minister that the sign need not be so illuminated.

(4) Where—

(*a*) a traffic sign shown in diagram 2 is erected on a road at or near to its junction with a side of a road on which a speed limit is in force ; or

(*b*) a traffic sign shown in diagram 5 is erected on a road at or near to its junction with a side of a road on which a speed limit is not in force,

the sign may, notwithstanding anything in paragraph (2) of this Regulation, be illuminated by the use of reflectors or reflecting material in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulations 8 and 9 of these Regulations.

(5) Where a traffic sign mentioned in the foregoing paragraph is erected on a road as mentioned in that paragraph, and another traffic sign, being a sign so mentioned, is either attached to, or supported by the same means as, the first-mentioned sign, and is so placed as to face in the opposite direction to that sign, the provisions as to illumination contained in the foregoing paragraph applicable as respects the said sign shall also apply as respects that other sign.

7. Every traffic sign shown in diagram 3 or diagram 6 shall be illuminated during the hours of darkness—

(*a*) by a means of lighting which is fitted to the sign ; or

(*b*) by the use of reflectors or reflecting material in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulations 8 and 9 of these Regulations.

8. Where any traffic sign shown in any numbered diagram is illuminated by the use of reflectors in accordance with the foregoing provisions of these Regulations, the number, size, colour and arrangement of such reflectors shall be as shown in the diagram relating to that sign.

9. Where any traffic sign shown in any numbered diagram is illuminated by the use of reflecting material in accordance with the foregoing provisions of these Regulations—

(*a*) material reflecting red light shall be used on that part (if any) of the sign which is shown as required to be coloured red in the diagram relating to that sign ; and

(*b*) subject to the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, material reflecting white light shall be used either—

(i) on any number or symbol incorporated in the sign but not elsewhere thereon, or

(ii) not on any number or symbol incorporated in the sign but elsewhere thereon and otherwise than within one quarter of an inch from any part of the sign on which material reflecting red light is used,

but so that the colours of the sign as shown in the diagram relating to that sign are not materially impaired in normal daylight.

SCHEDULE

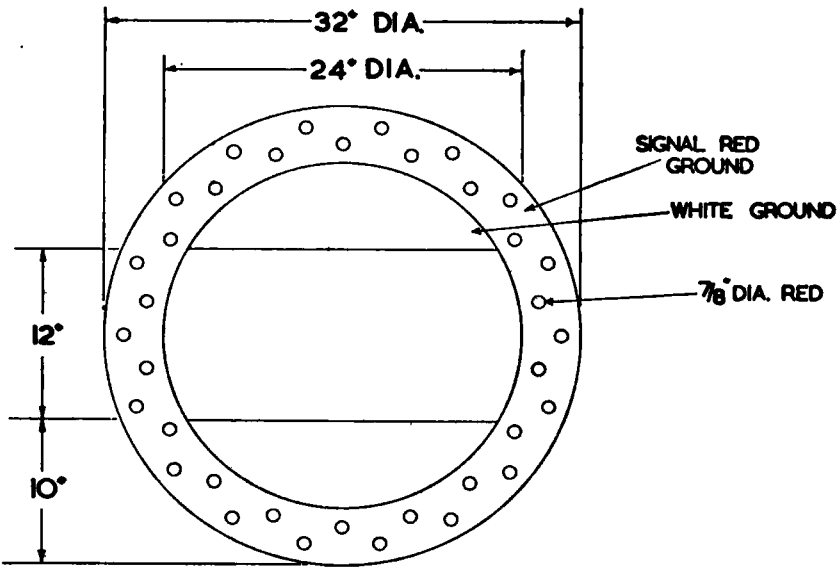




DIAGRAM 1

SPEED LIMIT TO BE INDICATED BY NUMERALS, PLACED BETWEEN THE PARALLEL LINES IN THE INNER CIRCLES OF DIAGS. 1, 2 & 3, OF SIZE, COLOUR AND TYPE SHOWN. THE PARALLEL LINES ARE A GUIDE ONLY AND DO NOT FORM PART OF THE SIGN.

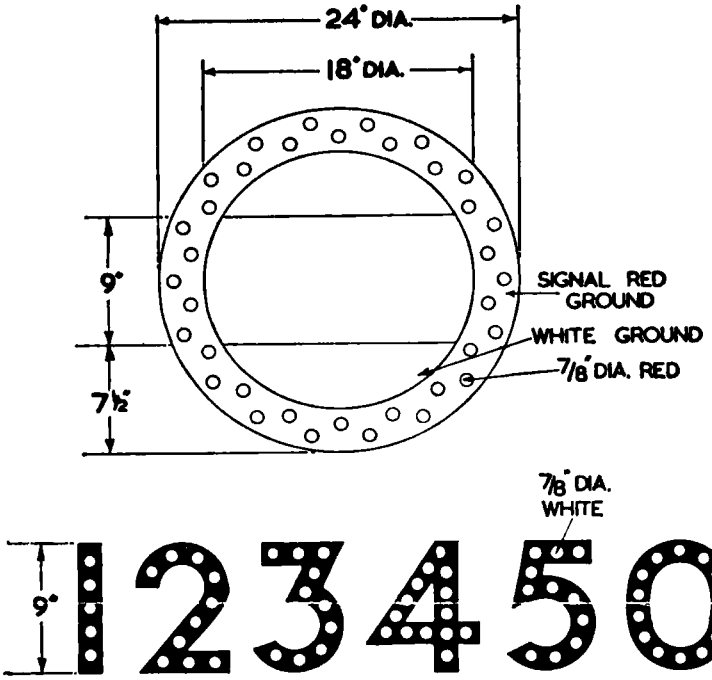


DIAGRAM 2

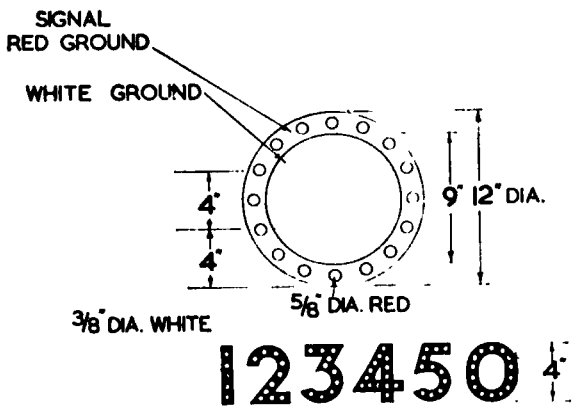


DIAGRAM 3

SPEED LIMIT TO BE INDICATED BY NUMERALS, PLACED BETWEEN THE PARALLEL LINES IN THE INNER CIRCLES OF DIAGS. 1, 2 & 3, OF SIZE, COLOUR AND TYPE SHOWN. THE PARALLEL LINES ARE A GUIDE ONLY AND DO NOT FORM PART OF THE SIGN.

SCHEDULE

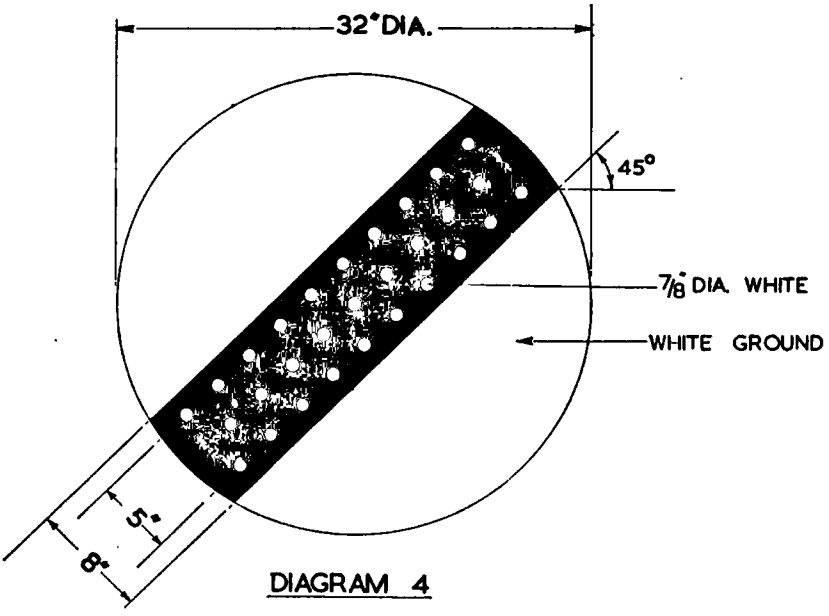


DIAGRAM 4

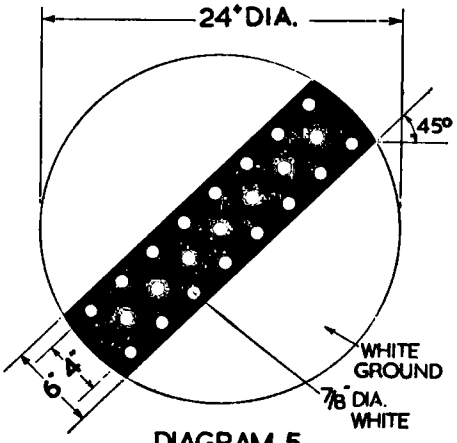


DIAGRAM 5

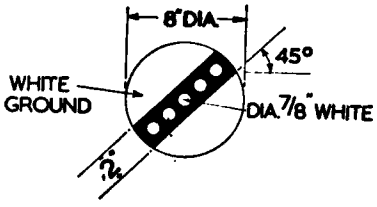


DIAGRAM 6

PART II.—GENERAL DIRECTIONS

1. These Directions may be cited as the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Directions 1962.

2.—(1) The Directions specified in column 2 of the following table are hereby revoked:—

TABLE

Column 1	Column 2
1. The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1961.	The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) (England and Wales) Directions 1961(a).
2. As above	The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) (Scotland) Directions 1961(a).
3. The Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Regulations 1961.	The Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Directions 1961(a).

(2) Where, immediately before the coming into operation of these Directions, a traffic sign—

(*a*) being a sign shown in any diagram set out in the Schedule to either of the Regulations specified in column 1 of the said Table and then complying with the provisions relating thereto by virtue of those Regulations, is situated on or near any road in conformity with the provisions of such of the Directions as are specified in relation to those Regulations in column 2 of the said Table; or

(*b*) being a sign shown in diagram 327 or diagram 401 set out in Schedule 1 to the Traffic Signs Regulations 1957 and then complying with the provisions relating thereto by virtue of those Regulations, is situated on or near any road in conformity with such of the provisions of the Traffic Signs General Directions 1957(b) as relate to that sign,

the sign shall be treated as placed in conformity with the provisions of these Directions.

3.—(1) In these Directions—

(*a*) the expression "1962 Regulations" means the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1962 set out in Part I of this Instrument;

(*b*) "road" means any length of road; and

(*c*) references to a speed limit in relation to a road have the same meaning as in Regulation 3 (2) of the 1962 Regulations.

(2) Any reference in these Directions to a sign shown in a numbered diagram is a reference to a traffic sign of the size, colour and type shown in the diagram of that number set out in the Schedule to the 1962 Regulations, and in so far as it is a reference to, or a reference which includes, a sign shown in diagram 1, diagram 2 or diagram 3, it shall be treated as a reference to such a sign which indicates a speed limit in force on a road in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 4 (*a*) of the 1962 Regulations.

Directions as to speed limit signs

4.—(1) This paragraph applies in the case of a road—

(*a*) on which a speed limit is in force; and

(*b*) where that speed limit begins at a point on the road where the width of the carriageway is 30 feet or more or, where the road has more than one carriageway, where the width of that one of the carriageways on which the speed limit begins is 22 feet or more.

(a) The Directions specified in Column 2 were made respectively on 13th, 21st and 13th December 1961 at which time such Directions did not fall to be made by statutory instrument.

(b) Part II of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1957.

(2) Subject to paragraph 13 of these Directions, there shall be erected at or as near as practicable to every point on the road where the speed limit begins—

(*a*) signs shown in diagram 1 which indicate, by means of appropriate numerals as provided in Regulation 4 (*a*) of the 1962 Regulations, what the speed limit is; and

(*b*) so that there is one such sign on each side of the carriageway of the road, or, where the road has more than one carriageway, on each side of each carriageway on which the speed limit begins.

(3) In determining the width of the carriageway of a road for the purposes of this paragraph the width of any other carriageway which forms part of the road but which is used, or is intended to be used, primarily to relieve the first-mentioned carriageway of local traffic shall be disregarded.

5. Subject to the foregoing paragraph and to paragraph 13 of these Directions, there shall be erected at or as near as practicable to every point on a road where a speed limit in force on that road begins—

(*a*) signs shown in diagram 1 or diagram 2 which indicate, by means of appropriate numerals as provided in Regulation 4 (*a*) of the 1962 Regulations, what the speed limit is; and

(*b*) so that there is one such sign on each side of the carriageway of the road, or, where the road has more than one carriageway, on each side of each carriageway on which the speed limit begins.

6. Where a road has a junction with the side of another road on which a speed limit is in force and either no speed limit is in force on the first-mentioned road or a speed limit is in force on that road but the maximum rate of speed applicable by virtue of that speed limit is different from the maximum rate of speed applicable by virtue of the speed limit in force on that other road, there shall be erected on the first-mentioned road, at or as near as practicable to the said junction,—

(*a*) signs shown in diagram 2 which indicate, by means of appropriate numerals as provided in Regulation 4 (*a*) of the 1962 Regulations, what the speed limit in force on the said other road is; and

(*b*) so that there is one such sign on each side of the carriageway of the said first-mentioned road, or, where that road has more than one carriageway, on each side of each carriageway from which a vehicle may duly pass into the said other road.

7. There shall be erected in accordance with the provisions of the following paragraph—

(*a*) along a road more than two hundred yards in length on which a speed limit of 30 miles per hour is in force, being a road on which a system of street lighting furnished by lamps placed two hundred yards or less apart is not provided; and

(*b*) along a road on which a speed limit of more than 30 miles per hour is in force

signs shown in diagram 3 which indicate, by means of appropriate numerals as provided in Regulation 4 (*a*) of the 1962 Regulations, what the speed limit is.

8. The signs mentioned in the foregoing paragraph shall be so erected along the carriageway of a road so mentioned, or, where the said road has more than one carriageway, along each carriageway, in such a manner that—

(*a*) they are situated on each side of the carriageway, or, as the case may be, on each side of each carriageway;

(*b*) the distance between any one sign on one side of a carriageway and any sign next following that sign on that side and facing in the same direction does not exceed—

(i) in the case of a road mentioned in sub-paragraph (*a*) of the foregoing paragraph, 300 yards, and

(ii) in the case of a road mentioned in sub-paragraph (*b*) of that paragraph, 325 yards;

(*c*) the distance between any one sign on one side of a carriageway and any sign next following that sign on the other side of that carriageway and facing in the same direction does not exceed two hundred yards; and

(*d*) one such sign is situated on the left or near side of the carriageway, or, as the case may be, of each carriageway, not more than—

(i) in the case of a road mentioned in the said sub-paragraph (*a*), 150 yards from each end of that road, and

(ii) in the case of a road mentioned in the said sub-paragraph (*b*), 225 yards from each end of that road.

Directions as to derestriction signs

9. Subject to paragraph 13 of these Directions, there shall be erected at or as near as practicable to every point on a road where a speed limit in force on that road ends, being a point where there is no other speed limit in force on the road—

(*a*) signs shown in diagram 4 or diagram 5; and

(*b*) so that there is one such sign on each side of the carriageway of the road, or, where the road has more than one carriageway, on each side of each carriageway on which the speed limit ends.

10. Where a road has a junction with the side of another road on which a speed limit is in force and there is no speed limit in force on the first-mentioned road, there shall be erected on that road, at or as near as practicable to the said junction,—

(*a*) signs shown in diagram 5; and

(*b*) so that there is one such sign on each side of the carriageway of the said first-mentioned road, or, where that road has more than one carriageway, on each side of each carriageway into which a vehicle may duly pass from the said other road.

11. There shall be erected in accordance with the provisions of the following paragraph along a road on which there are one or more street lamps and on which a speed limit is not in force, signs shown in diagram 6.

12. A sign mentioned in the foregoing paragraph shall be erected on each lamp-post along any road mentioned in that paragraph so as to be clearly visible to the drivers of motor vehicles using the road, but if any lamp is mounted otherwise than on a post or if any existing lamp-post is not available or cannot conveniently be used for the purpose of erecting the sign upon it such sign shall be erected on a post to be specially placed for the purpose by the side of the road as close to the lamp as is consistent with the visibility of the sign to the drivers of motor vehicles using the road:

Provided that where on such a road—

(*a*) there is a lamp which is placed more than 200 yards from the nearest other lamp on that road; or

(*b*) on one side of the road there are more than three lamps without there being any lamp on the other side of the road between the first and last of those lamps; or

(*c*) there are not more than three lamps which are placed 200 yards or less apart,

two such signs facing in opposite directions shall be erected on each lamp-post on which is mounted each of such lamps or on a post close to each of such lamps, as the case may require.

Supplementary

13. Where a speed limit in force on a road begins or ends—

(*a*) at a point where the road begins or ends, being a point where it has no junction with another road; or

(*b*) at a point where the road has a junction with a side of a road on which a speed limit is also in force and the maximum rate of speed applicable by virtue of both speeds limits is the same,

paragraphs 4, 5 and 9 of these Directions shall not apply as respects the erection of a sign at or near to that point.

14. Where a traffic sign erected as aforesaid is mounted on or attached to a post specially provided for that purpose, the post shall be coloured in alternate black and white bands the lowest band being coloured black and being not less than eleven inches nor more than three feet three inches in width and each other band being not less than eleven inches nor more than thirteen inches in width.

PART III.—GENERAL CITATION AND COMMENCEMENT

This Instrument may be cited as the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1962 and shall come into operation on the 1st November 1962.

Given under the Seal of the Secretary of State the 29th October 1962.

(L.S.) *Michael Noble,*
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 26th October 1962.

(L.S.) *Ernest Marples,*
The Minister of Transport.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Instrument, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The Regulations in Part I of this Instrument (which revoke the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1961 and the Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Regulations 1961) prescribe the size, colour and type of traffic signs which the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the Minister of Transport, as respects a trunk road, and a local authority, as respects any other road, shall cause to be erected for indicating whether there is a speed limit on the road. The Regulations also make provision as to the illumination of these signs during the hours of darkness.

The Directions in Part II of the Instrument (which revoke the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) (England and Wales) Directions 1961, the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) (Scotland) Directions 1961 and the Traffic Signs (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) Directions 1961) are general directions by the Secretary of State and the Minister of Transport relating to the erection of traffic signs prescribed by the Regulations which it is the duty of local authorities to erect in their areas for the purpose of securing that guidance is given to drivers of motor vehicles as to whether any, and if so what, limit of speed is to be observed on any road.