STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1967 No. 1890

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1967

Made - - -	19*th December* 1967
Laid before Parliament	28*th December* 1967
Coming into Operation	1*st January* 1968

The Secretary of State and the Minister of Transport (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister"), acting jointly in exercise of their powers under section 54 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967(**a**) and of all other powers them enabling in that behalf and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 107(2) of that Act, hereby make the Regulations contained in Parts I and II of this Instrument; and the Secretary of State (as respects the erection of traffic signs such as are prescribed by the said Regulations on or near roads in Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire) and the Minister (as respects the erection of such signs on or near roads in England excluding Monmouthshire), each acting in exercise of the powers under section 75(1) of the said Act of 1967 and of all other enabling powers, hereby give the Directions contained in Parts I and III of this Instrument :—

PART I—GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. This Instrument may be cited as the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1967 and shall come into operation on the 1st January 1968.

Revocations

2.—(1) The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1962(**b**), a Special Direction made on 1st December 1965(**c**) (which modified the general directions contained in the said instrument of 1962 in relation to traffic signs indicating a maximum speed limit of 50 miles per hour on certain roads), and the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) (Amendment) Regulations 1967(**d**), are hereby revoked.

(2) The Traffic Signs (Motorways Speed Limits) Regulations 1965(**e**) shall be amended by deleting Regulation 3 thereof.

Savings

3. Where, immediately before the coming into operation of this Instrument—

(*a*) a traffic sign shown in any diagram in the Schedule to the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1962(**f**) as amended by the Traffic Signs

(a) 1967 c. 76.
(b) S.I. 1962/2388 (1962 III, p. 3296).
(c) This Direction, being a Special Direction, did not fall to be made by statutory instrument.
(d) S.I. 1967/994 (1967 II, p. 3023).
(e) S.I. 1965/2085 (1965 III, p. 6135).
(f) Part I of the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1962.

(Speed Limits) (Amendment) Regulations 1967 and then complying with the provisions thereof relating thereto, is situated on or near any road in conformity with the provisions of the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Directions 1962(a), or those Directions as modified by the Special Direction of 1st December 1965, as the case may be; or

(*b*) a traffic sign prescribed by Regulation 3 of the Traffic Signs (Motorways Speed Limits) Regulations 1965 and then complying with the provisions thereof relating thereto,

is situated on or near any road, the sign shall, so long as it continues to comply with and conform to such of the said provisions as relate thereto as though the same had not been revoked, be treated as prescribed by the Regulations contained in Part II of this Instrument and placed in conformity with the provisions of the Directions contained in Part III of this Instrument, until the expiration of 10 years from their coming into operation, except that it shall not be treated after 31st December 1969 as so prescribed unless the provisions of Regulation 4 of the Regulations contained in Part II of this Instrument are complied with in relation to it and to the other signs referred to in that Regulation, or as so placed unless it complies with the provisions of paragraph 9 of the Directions contained in Part III of this Instrument.

Interpretation

4.—(1) In this Instrument—

"motorway" means any length of special road which is open for normal use only by traffic of Classes I and II of the classes of traffic set out for England and Wales in Schedule 4 to the Highways Act 1959(b), as amended (c), and for Scotland in Schedule 2 to the Special Roads Act 1949(d), as amended (e);

"road" means any length of road; and

"the 1967 Act" means the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967.

(2) In this Instrument any reference to a speed limit is a reference to a maximum or minimum limit of speed on the driving of motor vehicles on a road—

(*a*) imposed by an order under section 12 (which relates to temporary restrictions for road works) of the 1967 Act;

(*b*) imposed by regulations under section 13 (which relates to traffic regulation on motorways) of the 1967 Act;

(*c*) arising by virtue of the road being restricted for the purpose of section 71 (which relates to the general speed limit for restricted roads) of the 1967 Act;

(*d*) imposed or deemed to have been imposed by an order under section 74 (which relates to speed limits on roads other than restricted roads) of the 1967 Act;

(*e*) imposed by an order under section 77 (which relates to temporary speed limits and their continuation) of the 1967 Act on a specified road; or

(*f*) imposed by or under any enactment contained in a local Act;

and is not a reference to a speed limit imposed by an order under the said section 77 of the 1967 Act on all roads, or on all roads in a specified area, or on all roads of a specified class, or on all roads other than roads of a specified

(a) Part II of the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1962.
(b) 7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 25.
(c) S.I. 1961/1210 (1961 II, p. 2408).
(d) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 32.
(e) S.I. 1964/1084 (1964 II, p. 2398).

class, or (subject to sub-paragraph (5) of this paragraph) imposed by or under any other enactment.

(3) Any reference in this Instrument to a numbered diagram is a reference to the diagram of that number set out in the Schedule to the Regulations contained in Part II of this Instrument.

(4) Any reference in this Instrument to a traffic sign shown in a numbered diagram is a reference to a sign of one of the sizes, and of the colour and type shown in that diagram, and any reference to a numbered size of traffic sign shown in a numbered diagram is a reference to a sign of that size shown in that diagram.

(5) Any reference in this Instrument to any enactment or instrument shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to that enactment or instrument as amended, re-enacted or replaced by any subsequent enactment or instrument.

(6) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) shall apply for the interpretation of this Instrument as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if for the purposes of section 38 of that Act this Instrument were an Act of Parliament and the Regulations revoked or deleted by paragraph 2 of this Part of this Instrument were Acts of Parliament thereby repealed.

PART II—TRAFFIC SIGNS (SPEED LIMITS) REGULATIONS

Citation

1. The Regulations contained in this Part of this Instrument may be cited as the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations 1967.

Speed Limit Signs

2. The following traffic signs are hereby prescribed to inform traffic whether any, and if so what, speed limit is in force on a road—

(*a*) a sign of one of the sizes, and of the colour and type shown in diagram 1 (the numerals being varied, if appropriate, and having the proportion and form shown in diagram 5) shall inform traffic that a maximum speed limit is in force of the number of miles per hour shown by the numerals ;

(*b*) a sign of one of the sizes, and of the colour and type shown in diagram 2 (the numerals being varied, if appropriate, and having the proportion and form shown in diagram 6) shall inform traffic that a minimum speed limit is in force of the number of miles per hour shown by the numerals ;

(*c*) a sign of one of the sizes, and of the colour and type shown in diagram 3 shall inform traffic that a maximum speed limit is not in force ; and

(*d*) a sign of one of the sizes, and of the colour and type shown in diagram 4 (the numerals being varied, if appropriate, and having the proportion and form shown in diagram 6) shall inform traffic of the end of a minimum speed limit of the number of miles per hour shown by the numerals.

Variations in the dimensions of signs

3.—(1) Any dimension of a sign erected in accordance with the provisions of this Instrument (other than the height of a numeral) which varies from the dimension specified in the diagram set out in the Schedule to these Regulations

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

relating to a sign of that size shall be treated as being the dimension specified in the diagram if the variation—

(*a*) in the case of a dimension so specified as 300 millimetres or as over 300 millimetres does not exceed 2½% of that dimension;

(*b*) in the case of a dimension so specified as 50 millimetres or as over 50 millimetres but as under 300 millimetres, does not exceed 5% of that dimension; or

(*c*) in the case of a dimension so specified as under 50 millimetres, does not exceed 10% of that dimension.

(2) Any dimension as to the height of a numeral of a sign erected in accordance with the provisions of this Instrument which varies from the dimension specified in the diagram set out in the Schedule to these Regulations relating to a sign of that size shall be treated as being the dimension specified in the diagram if the variation in the case of a dimension so specified does not exceed 2½% of that dimension.

Illumination of signs

4.—(1) Every sign of size 1 or 2 shown in a numbered diagram, other than a sign of size 2 used as a repeater sign, shall, when erected on or near a road within 50 metres of a street lamp lit by electricity, be continuously illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by means of internal or external lighting, and may also be illuminated by the use of reflecting material.

(2) If any sign is required by the foregoing paragraph of this Regulation to be continuously illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by lighting, every sign shown in the same diagram as the first-mentioned sign which is erected at or near the same point on the road or the same junction for the same purpose as the first-mentioned sign shall be continuously illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by the same means of internal or external lighting as the first-mentioned sign, and, if any of the said signs is illuminated by the use of reflecting material, every other such sign shall be similarly illuminated.

(3) Any sign shown in a numbered diagram which is not required by the foregoing paragraphs of this Regulation to be illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by lighting may be illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by means of external or internal lighting, and if so illuminated paragraph (2) of this Regulation shall apply as if it were a sign required to be illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by lighting by paragraph (1) of this Regulation.

(4) Every sign shown in a numbered diagram which is not illuminated throughout the hours of darkness by lighting shall be illuminated by the use of reflecting material.

(5) Where any sign shown in a numbered diagram is illuminated by a means of external lighting, that means shall be either fitted to the sign or to the structure on which it is mounted or otherwise specially provided.

(6) Where reflecting material is used on any sign shown in a numbered diagram it shall be the same colour of, and extend throughout, that part of the sign to which it is applied, except that no reflecting material shall be applied to any part of a sign coloured black.

(7) In this Regulation—

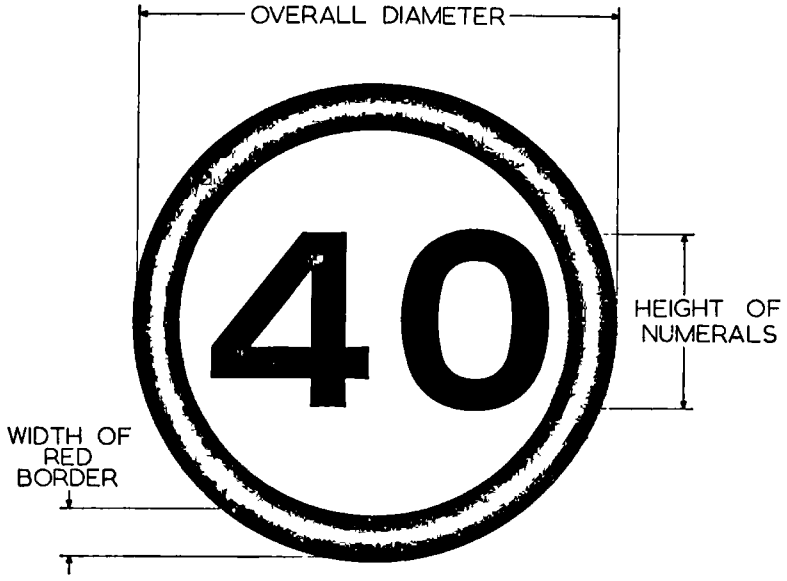
"hours of darkness" means the time between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise; and

"repeater sign" means a sign erected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of the Directions contained in Part III of this Instrument.

SCHEDULE

DIAGRAM 1

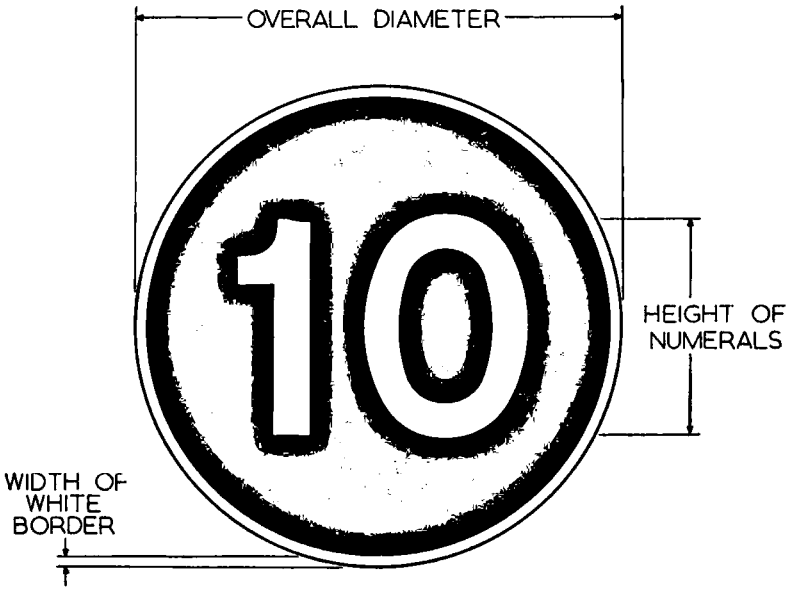
SIGN INDICATING A MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT



	SIZE 1	SIZE 2	SIZE 3
OVERALL DIAMETER	900 mm	600 mm	300 mm
WIDTH OF RED BORDER	90 mm	60 mm	30 mm
HEIGHT OF NUMERALS	330 mm	220 mm	110 mm

DIAGRAM 2

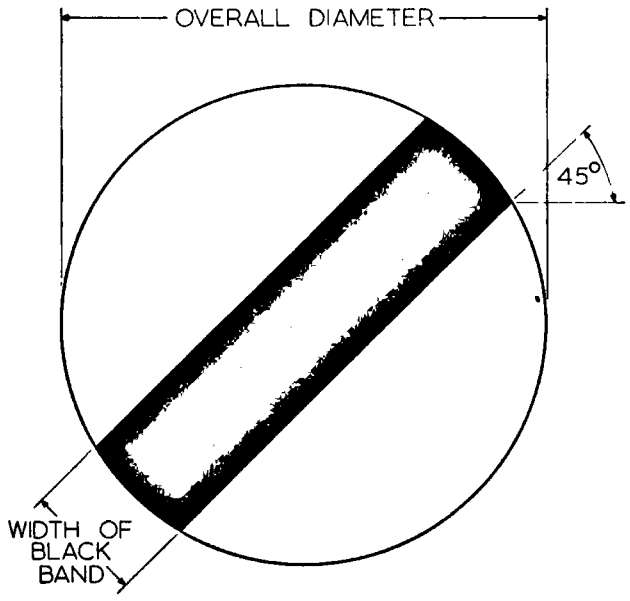
SIGN INDICATING A MINIMUM SPEED LIMIT



	SIZE 1	SIZE 2	SIZE 3
OVERALL DIAMETER	900 mm	600 mm	300 mm
WIDTH OF WHITE BORDER	18 mm	12 mm	6 mm
HEIGHT OF NUMERALS	405 mm	270 mm	135 mm

DIAGRAM 3

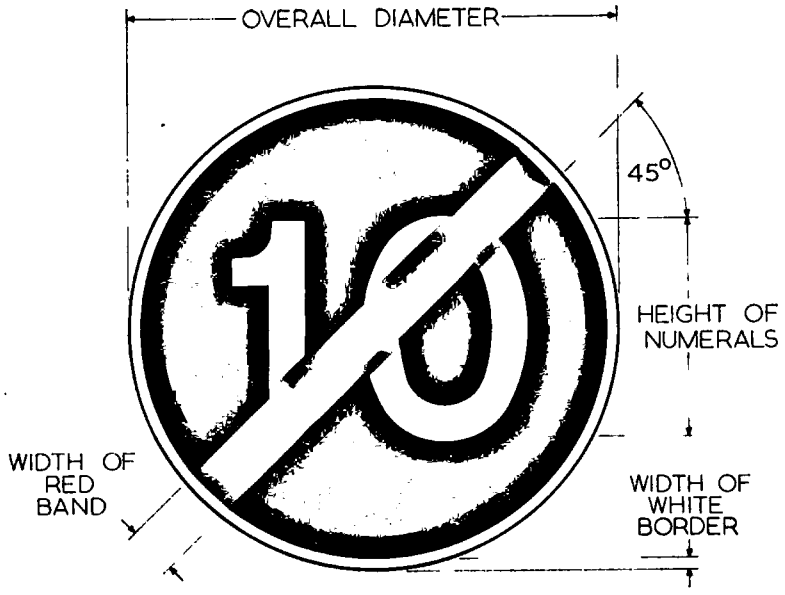
DE-RESTRICTION SIGN—(NO MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 4(2) OF PART I OF THIS INSTRUMENT)



	SIZE 1	SIZE 2	SIZE 3
OVERALL DIAMETER	900 mm	600 mm	300 mm
WIDTH OF BLACK BAND	225 mm	150 mm	75 mm

DIAGRAM 4

SIGN INDICATING END OF A MINIMUM SPEED LIMIT



	SIZE 1	SIZE 2	SIZE 3
OVERALL DIAMETER	900 mm	600 mm	300 mm
WIDTH OF WHITE BORDER	18 mm	12 mm	6 mm
WIDTH OF RED BAND	90 mm	60 mm	30 mm
HEIGHT OF NUMERALS	405 mm	270 mm	135 mm

DIAGRAM 5

PROPORTION AND FORM OF NUMERALS FOR USE WITH DIAGRAM 1

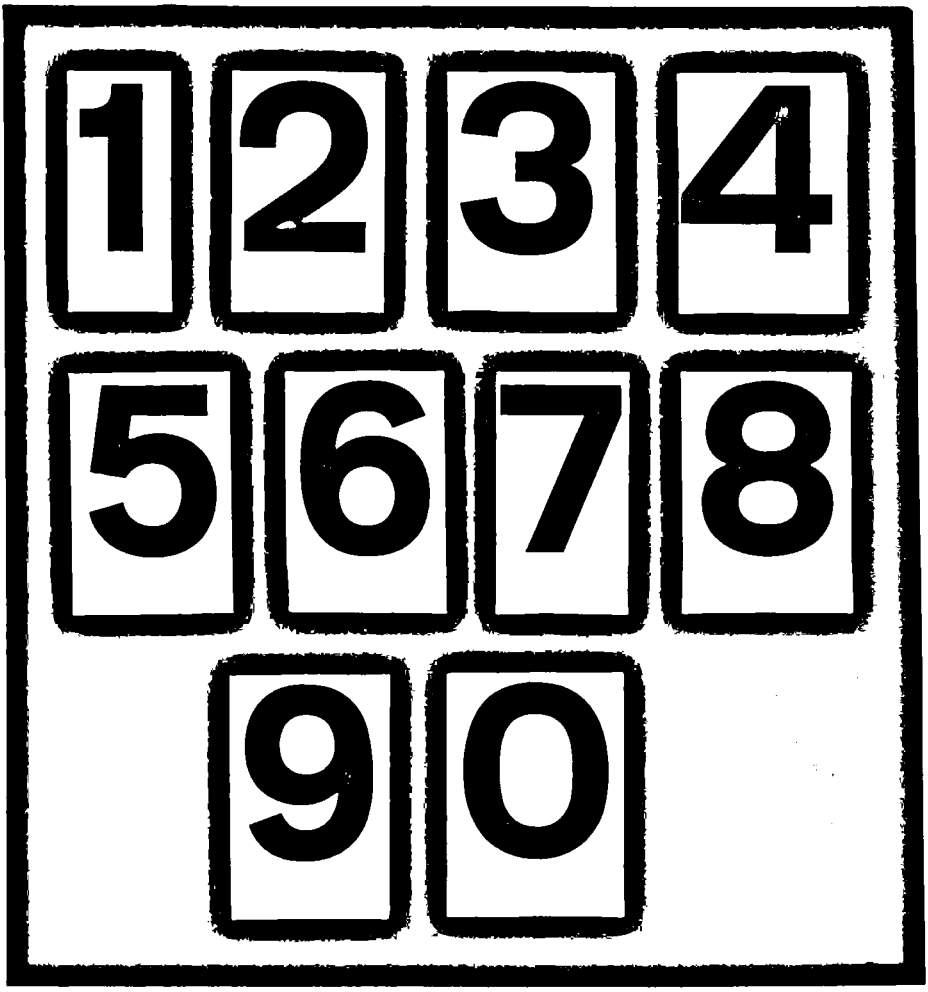
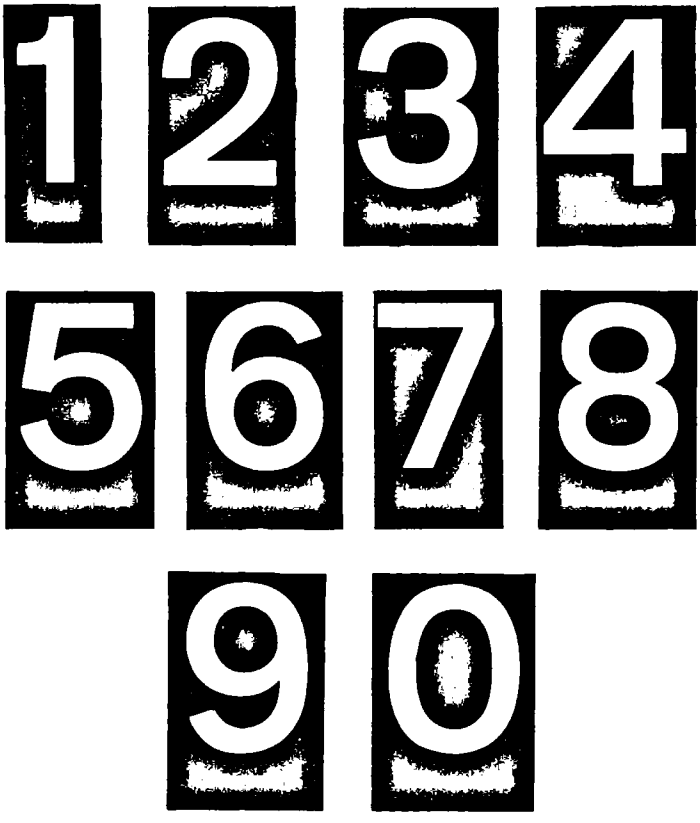


DIAGRAM 6

PROPORTION AND FORM OF NUMERALS FOR USE WITH DIAGRAMS 2 AND 4



PART III—GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Citation

1. The Directions contained in this Part of this Instrument may be cited as the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) General Directions 1967.

Speed limit signs at beginning of speed limit

2.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph 8 of these Directions, there shall be erected, at or as near as practicable to the point on a road where a speed limit in force on that road begins, signs shown in diagrams 1 or 2 which indicate whether that speed limit is a maximum or minimum speed limit and what the speed limit is.

(2) One such sign shall be erected 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.

Speed limit signs at junctions

3.—(1) 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 which is different from the speed limit in force on the other road, there shall be erected on the first-mentioned road, at or as near as practicable to the said junction, signs shown in diagrams 1 and 2 which indicate whether the speed limit in force on the said other road is a maximum or minimum speed limit and what the speed limit is.

(2) One such sign shall be erected 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.

Derestriction signs at end of speed limit

4.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph 8 of these Directions, there shall be erected, at or as near as practicable to the 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, signs shown in diagram 3 where the speed limit in force is a maximum one, and signs shown in diagram 4 where the speed limit in force is a minimum one.

(2) One such sign shall be erected 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.

Derestriction signs at junctions

5.—(1) 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 the first-mentioned road, at or as near as practicable to the said junction, signs shown in diagram 3 where the speed limit in force is a maximum one, and signs shown in diagram 4 where the speed limit in force is a minimum one.

(2) One such sign shall be erected 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.

Repeater signs

6.—(1) There shall be erected along a road specified in column 1 of the following Table on which a speed limit is in force signs shown in diagrams 1 or 2 which indicate whether the speed limit is a maximum or minimum speed limit and what the speed limit is:

Provided that this sub-paragraph shall not apply to any motorway which is subject to a general speed limit which is in force on all motorways, or on all motorways other than those which are for the time being subject to a different speed limit, in Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire, or England excluding Monmouthshire, as the case may be, unless there is provided on such motorway a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 200 yards apart.

(2) There shall be erected along a road on which there is a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 200 yards apart and on which a speed limit is not in force, signs shown in diagram 3.

(3) The signs mentioned in the foregoing sub-paragraphs shall be 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 the distance specified in column 2 of the said Table in relation to the road specified in the said column 1;

(*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 the distance specified in column 3 of the said Table in relation to the road specified in the said column 1; 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 the distance specified in column 4 of the said Table in relation to the road specified in the said column 1 from each end of the road on which the speed limit is or is not in force, as the case may be.

TABLE

Column 1 Type of road:	Column 2 Maximum distance between consecutive signs on the same side of a carriageway:	Column 3 Maximum distance between consecutive signs on alternate sides of a carriageway:	Column 4 Maximum distance between terminal sign and first repeater sign:
1. Road more than 250 metres in length on which a maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less is in force, being in the case of a road on which a maximum speed limit of 30 miles per hour is in force, a road on which a system of street lighting furnished by lamps placed 200 yards or less apart is not provided.	400 metres	250 metres	200 metres
2. Road more than 350 metres in length— (i) on which a maximum speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour but of 45 miles per hour or less is in force; or (ii) on which a minimum speed limit is in force; or (iii) on which there is a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 200 yards apart, and on which a speed limit is not in force.	500 metres	350 metres	250 metres
3. Road more than 450 metres in length on which a maximum speed limit of more than 45 miles per hour but of 55 miles per hour or less is in force.	700 metres	450 metres	350 metres
4. Road more than 500 metres in length on which a maximum speed limit of more than 55 miles per hour but of 65 miles per hour or less is in force.	800 metres	500 metres	400 metres
5. Road more than 600 metres in length on which a maximum speed limit of more than 65 miles per hour but of 75 miles per hour or less is in force.	900 metres	600 metres	450 metres
6. Road more than 700 metres in length on which a maximum speed limit of more than 75 miles per hour is in force.	1000 metres	700 metres	500 metres

Size of Signs

7. The size of any sign erected in accordance with the provisions of these Directions shall not be smaller than the size specified in the following Table for the type of road on or near which the sign is erected—

TABLE

Type of road:	Signs at beginning and end of speed limit:	Signs at junctions:	Repeater signs:
1. Motorways on which a maximum speed limit of more than 50 miles per hour is in force.	Size 1	Size 1	Size 2
2. (a) Motorways on which a maximum speed limit of 50 miles per hour or less is in force. (b) Dual carriageway roads over 1 kilometre in length where the width of one of the carriageways is 8 metres or more at the point where the speed limit begins.	Size 1	Size 2	Size 2
3. (a) Other dual carriageway roads over 1 kilometre in length; and (b) Single carriageway roads over 1 kilometre in length having a carriageway width of 8 metres or more at the point where the speed limit begins.	Size 1	Size 2	Size 3
4. All other roads.	Size 2	Size 2	Size 3

Exceptions

8. Where a speed limit in force on the 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 another road on which a speed limit is also in force and the maximum or minimum of speed applicable by virtue of both speed limits is the same,

paragraphs 2 or 4 of these Directions shall not apply as respects the erection of a sign at or near to that point.

Colouring of sign post and back of sign

9.—(1) Where a traffic sign in a numbered diagram is mounted on a post specially provided for the purpose that part of the post which extends above ground level shall be coloured grey except—

(*a*) in a case where the post is constructed of concrete and in this event it shall remain in its natural colour ; or

(*b*) in any other case where the post is not likely to be readily visible to pedestrians and in this case the post shall be coloured grey and have one white band of between 140 millimetres and 160 millimetres in depth, the lower edge of the band being between 1.5 metres and 1.7 metres above the level of the surface of the ground in the immediate vicinity.

(2) The back of any sign shown in a numbered diagram and any fitting provided for the assembly of such a sign, including any container enclosing apparatus for the illumination of the sign, shall be coloured grey.

Special cases

10. Nothing in these Directions shall limit the power of the Minister or the Secretary of State by any special Direction to dispense with, add to or modify any of the requirements of these Directions in their application to any particular case.

Dated the 18th December 1967.

William Ross,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Dated the 18th December 1967.

Cledwyn Hughes,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 19th December 1967.

Barbara Castle,
Minister of Transport.

(L.S.)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Instrument.)

This Instrument re-enacts with modifications the Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions 1962 as amended and Regulation 3 of the Traffic Signs (Motorways Speed Limits) Regulations 1965.

By virtue of the extended definition of speed limit in paragraph 4(2) in Part I of the Instrument, speed limit signs can now be used to indicate a speed limit imposed at road works under section 12 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, and a speed limit imposed initially temporarily on a specified road or roads under section 77 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967, in addition to the speed limits for which the signs have previously been used.

The principal changes effected by the Regulations in Part II of the Instrument (which prescribe speed limit signs) are:—

(1) Regulation 2 paragraphs (*b*) and (*d*) prescribe signs for minimum speed limits;

(2) Regulation 4 provides that if a speed limit sign is erected at the beginning or end of a speed limit, or at a junction and is within 50 metres of a street lamp lit by electricity, it must be illuminated; hitherto it had to be illuminated if within 150 yards of the lamp; it also provides that all the other speed limit signs at that place conveying the same information to traffic must be similarly illuminated;

(3) Diagrams 1 to 4 in the Schedule, which show the permitted sizes of the signs, no longer permit an 8 inch diameter repeater sign; the smallest repeater sign is now 300 millimetres in diameter (approximately 12 inches); and

(4) Diagrams 5 and 6 in the Schedule, which show the proportion and form of the numerals, contain all the numerals, thus enabling the signs to be used for any speed limit, whereas previously only numerals 0 to 6 were prescribed for speed limits on roads other than motorways.

The principal changes effected by the Directions in Part III of the Instrument (which provide how and where speed limit signs are to be erected) are:—

(1) Paragraphs 6(2) and (3) provide that repeater de-restriction signs shall be erected at the intervals appropriate to a 40 m.p.h. speed limit instead of on every lamp-post; and

(2) Paragraph 9 requires a sign post specially provided (other than one made of concrete) to be coloured grey, with a single white band to warn pedestrians where this is considered necessary, whereas previously these posts had alternate black and white bands.

All dimensions of signs and virtually all measurements in the Instrument are now defined metrically.

Paragraph 3 of Part I of the instrument provides that existing signs erected under the 1962 and 1965 Instruments may continue to be used for 10 years except that after 31st December 1969 they must comply with the requirements of Regulation 4 in Part II (as to illumination) and Direction 9 in Part III (as to the colouring of the sign post).