

Distr.: General
5 February 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety

Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

Fourteenth session

Geneva, 15-16 February 2018

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

Programme of Work: Taking Stock of National Legislation

Secretariat's amendment proposals

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At the 13th session, the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals requested the secretariat review the text of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals as well as of the European Agreement Supplementing the Convention and make a proposal for a consistent use of terms such as “strips” and “rims”. This present document contains such a proposal.

2. Following Article 7, point 4, the term “narrow strip” is used to differentiate graphic elements of the same colour tone in the signs. Dark graphic elements should be differentiated by a light coloured narrow strip and vice-versa. However, the Article does not make the use of the “narrow strip” obligatory.

3. The term “rim” is a dark or light line at the outer edge of a sign (may apply for signs with no border). It is used to differentiate the edge of a sign from its ground – dark line with light ground and vice-versa.

4. As per above, articles of the Convention that use the term “rim” when the rim is to be used to differentiate graphic elements of the same colour tone within the sign would need to be changed to “narrow strip”.

5. In this context, the Group of Experts may wish to consider the following options:

Option 1: Leave it open to Contracting Parties whether or not to use the light or dark coloured narrow strip. In this case, the Article 7, point 4 stays as it is while no other provision should refer to narrow strip.

Option 2: Leave it open to Contracting Parties whether or not to use the light or dark coloured narrow strip for some signs while introduce specific requirement for some other

signs. In this case, Article 7, point 4 stays as it is while some specific provisions introduce the requirement of using the narrow strip. These provisions may further clarify the requirement for a specific colour of the narrow strip.

Option 3: Introduce a requirement to use the narrow strip of a light or dark colour. In this case, Article 7, point 4 needs to be amended by replacing “may” with “shall”. In some provisions the narrow strip may be referred to when the colour of the strip should be specified.

Option 4: Introduce a requirement to use the narrow strip of either black or white colour. In this case, Article 7, point 4 needs to be amended by replacing “may” with “shall” and “light” with “white” and “dark” with “black” while no other provision should refer to narrow strip anymore.

5. The articles of the Convention listed in section II may need to be modified depending on the option chosen.

II. Articles of the Convention requiring further modification

Annex 1, Section B, point 3 "PRIORITY ROAD" sign, sub-point (a):

The "PRIORITY ROAD" sign shall be sign B, 3. It shall consist of a square with one diagonal vertical. The rim of the sign shall be black; the sign shall have in its centre a yellow ~~or orange~~ square with a black ~~rim~~ *narrow-strip; or an orange square*; the space between the two squares shall be white.

Comment 1: The above text would be in line with option 2 (additional requirement for a narrow strip and additional requirement for the narrow strip to be black) and option 3 (additional requirement for the narrow strip to be black). For option 1 and 4 the middle part of the second sentence would need to say: the sign shall have in its centre a yellow or orange square. For option 1 in connection with the existing Article 7, point 4 would mean that a Contracting Party may use a dark narrow strip on this sign to differentiate white from yellow. For option 4 in connection with an amended Article 7, point 4 it would mean that a Contracting Party is obliged to use a black narrow strip to differentiate white from yellow.

Annex 1, Section B, point 6. Sign indicating priority over oncoming traffic, sub-point (b):

This sign shall be rectangular with a blue ground *and may have a white rim*; the arrow pointing upwards shall be white and the ~~the~~ arrow *pointing downwards shall be red and shall be surrounded by a white narrow strip*.

Comment 2: The above text would be in line with option 2 (additional requirement for a narrow strip and additional requirement for the narrow strip to be white) and option 3 (additional requirement for the narrow strip to be white). For option 1 and 4 the sentence should end after “red”. For option 1 in connection with the existing Article 7, point 4, the provision would mean that a Contracting Party may use a light coloured narrow strip on this sign to differentiate red arrow from blue ground. For option 4 in connection with an amended Article 7, point 4, this provision would mean that a Contracting Party is obliged to use a white narrow strip surrounding the red arrow.

The addition in the first sentence “*and may have a white rim*” should be consistent with general provisions regarding mandatory and special regulations signs (see the last section of this document).

Annex 1, Section C, point 9. Prohibition or restriction of standing and parking, sub-points (a)(i) and (b)(i):

Places where parking is prohibited shall be indicated by sign C, 18, "PARKING PROHIBITED"; places where standing and parking are prohibited shall be indicated by

sign C, 19, "STANDING AND PARKING PROHIBITED". *The narrow strip, if any, shall be white.*

Comment 3: This additional sentence will be in line with option 2 (if a narrow strip is used it shall be white). To make it in line with option 3, "if any" should be deleted. For option 1 and 4 there should be no reference to the strip.

Annex 1, Section D, point 8 End of compulsory minimum speed:

Sign D, 8 "END OF COMPULSORY MINIMUM SPEED", shall mean that the compulsory minimum speed imposed by sign D, 7 is no longer in effect. Sign D, 8 shall be identical to sign D, 7, except that it shall be crossed by **an oblique diagonal red band or, preferably, red parallel lines forming such a band running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge sloping down from right to left. The diagonal red band shall have a white ~~thin~~ narrow strip to separate the red band it from the blue ground. The diagonal band can be interrupted when crossing the figure specifying the speed. If not interrupted, the diagonal red band shall be placed over the figure.**

Comment 4: The above text would be in line with option 2 (additional requirement for a narrow strip and additional requirement for the narrow strip to be white) and 3 (additional requirement for the narrow strip to be white). For option 1 and 4 the sentence about the red band having a narrow strip needs to be deleted. For option 1 in connection with the existing Article 7, point 4, this provision would mean that a Contracting Party may use a light coloured narrow strip on this sign to differentiate red band/red lines from the blue ground. For option 4 in connection with an amended Article 7, point 4, this provision would mean that a Contracting Party is obliged to use a white narrow strip on this sign to differentiate red band/red lines from the blue ground.

Annex 1, Section E, point 5 Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a motorway, sub-point (d):

These signs shall have blue or green ground **and bear a light coloured symbol. The sign E,5 b, "END OF MOTORWAY", shall be identical to the sign E, 5 a, except that it shall be crossed by a diagonal red band or, preferably, red parallel lines forming such a band running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge. The diagonal red band shall have a white ~~thin~~ narrow strip to separate it from the blue or green ground. The diagonal band may be interrupted when crossing the symbol. If not interrupted, the diagonal band shall be placed over the symbol.**

Comment 5: see comment 4

Annex 1, Section E, point 6 Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway, new sub-point (d):

These signs shall have blue or green ground **and bear a light coloured symbol. The sign E, 6 b, "END OF ROAD FOR MOTOR VEHICLES", shall be identical to the sign E, 6 a, except that it shall be crossed by a diagonal red band or, preferably, red parallel lines forming such a band running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge. The diagonal red band shall have a white ~~thin~~ narrow strip to separate it from the blue or green ground. The diagonal band may be interrupted when crossing the symbol. If not interrupted, the diagonal band shall be placed over the symbol.**

Comment 6: see comment 4

Annex 1, Section E, point 7 Signs indicating the beginning and the end of a built-up area, sub-point (b):

The sign showing the end of a built-up area shall be identical except that it shall be crossed by ~~an oblique a diagonal red band coloured red or, preferably, red parallel lines~~

forming such a band ~~consisting of parallel lines coloured red~~ running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge. **The diagonal band may be interrupted when crossing the name of the built-up area or the symbol showing the silhouette of a built-up area or the two combined. If not interrupted, the diagonal band shall be placed over the name and/or the symbol.** Signs E, 8 a; E, 8 b; E, 8 c and E, 8 d are examples of signs indicating the end of a built-up area. **The diagonal red band shall have a white ~~rim~~ narrow strip in sign E, 8 d to separate the band from the blue ground.**

Comment 7: see comment 4

Annex 1, Section E, point 9 Signs notifying the entry to or exit from a tunnel where special rules apply, sub-point (c):

Sign E, 11 b 'END OF TUNNEL' may be placed at the point from which the special rules ~~no longer~~ cease to apply. **Sign 'END OF TUNNEL' shall be identical to the sign 'TUNNEL' except that it shall be crossed by a diagonal red band or, preferably, red parallel lines forming such a band running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge. The diagonal red band shall have a white ~~rim~~ narrow strip to separate it from the blue ground. The diagonal band may be interrupted when crossing the symbol. If not interrupted, the diagonal band shall be placed over the symbol.**

Comment 8: see comment 4

Annex 1, Section E, point 11, "HOSPITAL" sign, sub-point (b):

The red cross on sign E, 13 b may be replaced by one of the symbols referred to in section F, subsection II, paragraph 1. **The red cross or the red symbol replacing the cross shall be surrounded by a light coloured ~~rim~~ narrow strip.**

Comment 9: This sentence would make sense for option 2 (additional requirement for the narrow strip). This sentence is not necessary for any other option. In option 1, a Contracting Party will choose whether or not to add the strip. In option 3 a light coloured narrow strip is required. In option 4 the strip which is white is required as per the amended Article 7, point 4.

Annex 1, Section G, point V. Indication signs, point 3. "NO THROUGH ROAD" sign:

Sign G, 13, "NO THROUGH ROAD", placed at the entry to a road, shall mean that there is no throughway. **This sign shall have a blue ground with a white rim, and the symbol shall be white and red. The red element of the symbol shall be surrounded by a white ~~rim~~ narrow strip.**

Comment 9: see comment 2

Point 22 of the Annex of the European Agreement:

Sign E, 17 a "RESIDENTIAL AREA" shall be placed at the point where the special rules to be observed in a residential area referred to in article 27 bis of ~~the Convention on Road Traffic supplemented by~~ the European Agreement **Supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968** begin to apply. Sign E, 17b "END OF RESIDENTIAL AREA" shall be placed at the point where those rules cease to apply. **Sign 'END OF RESIDENTIAL AREA' shall be identical to the sign 'RESIDENTIAL AREA' except that it shall be crossed by a diagonal red band or, preferably, red parallel lines forming such a band running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge. The diagonal red band shall have a white ~~rim~~ narrow strip to separate it from the blue ground. The diagonal band shall be placed over the symbol."**

Comment 10: see comment 4

The Group of Experts may then consider a provision regarding the use of a rim in mandatory and special regulations signs as follows:

Section D, MANDATORY SIGNS, I. General characteristics and symbols, point 2:

Unless provided otherwise, the signs shall be blue, *may have a white or light coloured rim* and the symbols shall be white or of a light colour, or, alternatively, the signs shall be white with a red rim and the symbols shall be black.

Section E, SPECIAL REGULATION SIGNS, I. General characteristics and symbols:

Special regulation signs are usually square or rectangular with a blue ground and a light coloured symbol or inscription, or with a light coloured ground and a dark coloured symbol or inscription. **They may have a light or dark coloured rim.**
