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Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

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Note by the secretariat

1. The Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals requested the secretariat to prepare amendment proposals in relation to G section signs, in particular signs G, 11, G, 12, and G, 17 to G, 24 of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.
2. This document lists the provisions of the Convention, which are relevant to G section signs, describes problematic issues identified in those provisions and suggests amendment proposals.

1. The Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals requested the secretariat at its 11th session to prepare amendment proposals in relation to G section signs, in particular signs G, 11, G, 12, and G, 17 to G, 24 of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.
2. This document lists the provisions of the Convention, which are relevant to G section signs, describes problematic issues identified in those provisions and suggests amendment proposals.

Provisions relevant to G section signs:

- Article 5, point 1 c (ii) distinguishing the following direction, position or indication signs:
 - Advance direction signs;
 - Direction signs;
 - Road identification signs;
 - Place identification signs;
 - Confirmatory signs;
 - Indication signs;
- Article 8, point 1 specifying that: “In order to facilitate international understanding of signs the system of signs and signals prescribed in this Convention is based on the use of shapes, and colour characteristic of each class of sign and, ...”;
- Article 14 providing general provision on informative signs;
- Article 15 explaining the placement of the advance direction signs;
- Article 16 defining the direction signs;
- Article 17 defining the road identification signs;
- Article 18 specifying the usage of the place identification sign; it further requires the place identification signs to differ conspicuously from signs indicating a build-up area;
- Article 19 defining confirmatory signs;
- Article 21 providing provisions generally applying to informative signs;
- Annex I, Section G, I providing general characteristics and symbols of direction, position or indication signs such as information about the shape of the G-section sign, colours to be used on G section signs, general characteristics of some specific direction signs (direction for motorways), general information on signs indicating temporary conditions (road works, diversion or detours) versus Annex I, Section E, I providing general characteristics and symbols of special regulation signs;
- Annex I, Section G, point II introducing examples for general case and special cases of the advance direction signs;
- Annex I, Section G, point III introducing examples of the direction signs;
- Annex I, Section G, point IV introducing an example of a confirmatory sign;
- Annex I, Section G, point V introducing the indication signs, in particular:
 - Point 1 defining signs indicating the number and direction of lanes,
 - Point 2 defining signs indicating a closure of a traffic lane,
 - Point 3 providing the meaning for a ‘no through road’ sign,

- Point 4 explaining the sign for general speed limits,
- Point 5 explaining the sign for indicating whether a road is open or closed,
- Point 6 explaining the usage of an advisory speed sign,
- Point 7 naming the sign notifying advised itinerary for heavy vehicles,
- Point 8 explaining the sign for notifying an escape lane,
- Point 9 specifying signs notifying a pedestrian over- or underpass,
- Point 10 providing examples of signs notifying an exit from a motorway,
- Point 11 specifying signs indicating emergency exit.

Issues to be addressed:

Issue 1:

While Article 5, point 1 c (ii) distinguishes six “groups” of the G “sub-class” signs, two of these “groups” – road identification and place identification signs – are not mentioned again in the Convention, ie. there is no information in Annex 1 about them nor are the images of signs for these groups reproduced in Annex 3. This requires to be rectified.

Amendment proposal (Issue 1):

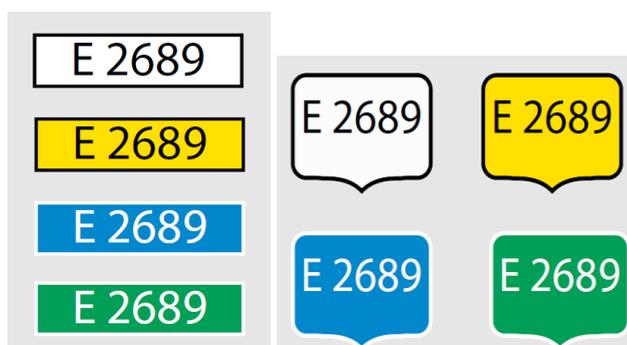
In Annex 1, refer to “Road identification” and “Place identification” signs. Provide the corresponding images in Annex 3.

IV. Road identification signs

Signs [the appropriate sign codes eg. G, 10, G, 11 ... or G, 25, G, 26 ... to be inserted here once the sequence in G class as well as the number of these “new” road identification signs is determined] **are examples of road identification signs.**

The road identification signs shall consist of figures, letters or combination of figures and letters, or by the road name framed in a rectangular panel or a shield panel. For Contracting Parties using a specific route classification symbol, that symbol may be used instead of the rectangle or shield.

With the amendment accepted, the example images for road identification in Annex 3 sign will look as follows (only images with black inscription on light-colour ground (white and yellow) and white inscription on a dark-colour ground (dark blue and green) are provided; as such dark blue inscription and yellow inscription can also be placed respectively on light-colour and dark-colour grounds):

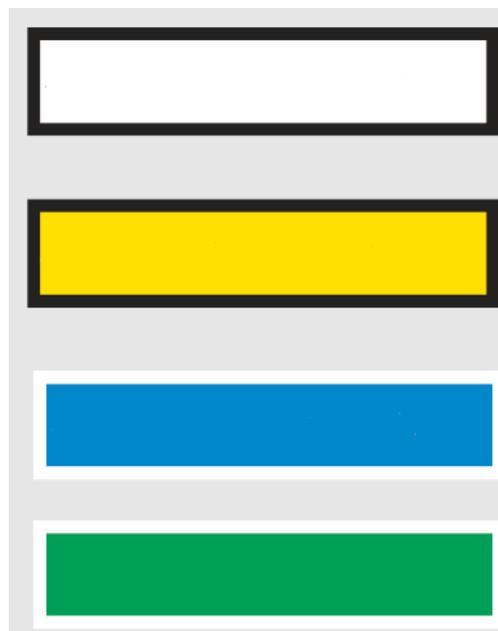


V. Place identification signs

Signs [the appropriate sign codes eg. G, 10, G, 11 ... or G, 25, G, 26 ... to be inserted here once the sequence in G class as well as the number of these “new” place identification signs is determined] **are examples of place identification signs.**

The place identification shall be in a shape of an elongated rectangle to make it differ conspicuously from the rectangular signs indicating the beginning and the end of a built-up area. Contracting Parties having chosen dark ground colour option for signs indicating the beginning and the end of a built-up area should choose a light ground colour option for the place identification sign and vice-versa.

With the amendment accepted, the example images for place identification signs in Annex 3 will look as follows (these images should include example inscription of a place in all the inscription colours permitted):



VI. Confirmatory signs

Sign G, 10 is an example of a confirmatory sign.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 6, paragraph 1, of this Convention, this sign may be placed on the reverse side of another sign intended for traffic proceeding in the opposite direction.

VII. Indication signs

1. Signs indicating the number and direction of traffic lanes Signs such as G, 11a; G, 11b and G, 11c shall be used to notify drivers on the number and direction of traffic lanes. They must comprise the same number of arrows as the number of lanes allocated to traffic in the same direction; they may also indicate lanes allocated to oncoming traffic.

Issue 1a:

Article 5, point 1 stipulates that the “Convention differentiates between the following classes of road signs” ... and some classes “are sub-divided” further. There appears need to provide consistent names for all these resulting “classes”, “sub- classes” and “groups” (“sub sub-classes”).

Amendment proposal (Issue 1a):

Re-name the heading in Article 5, point 1(c) (ii).

(ii) ~~Direction, position or indication signs~~ **Other information signs**;

Consider amending the first sentence in Article 8 point 1 to say “of each class of sign **except “priority signs”**”.

Article 8

1. In order to facilitate international understanding of signs, the system of signs and signals prescribed in this Convention is based on the use of shapes, and colours characteristic of each class of sign **except priority signs** and, wherever possible, on the use of graphic symbols rather than inscriptions.

Issue 2:

The Convention requires (Article 8, point 1) signs be based on the use of shapes, and colour characteristic of each class. However, there are “special regulations signs” (classified under the “regulatory signs” class) and “direction, position and indication signs” (classified under “informative signs” class which use the same shapes and colours.

It should be noted that in the original text of the Convention of 1968, there was no “special regulations” signs sub-class, and all of the signs currently in that sub-class were part of “informative signs” class.

Amendment proposal (Issue 2):

Amend Annex 1, Section G, point I.1 and I.2 as follows:

1. ~~Informative~~ **Other information** signs are ~~usually~~ rectangular; however, direction signs **and signs indicating the direction and distance of the nearest emergency exit** may ~~be in the shape of an elongated rectangle with~~ **have** the longer side horizontal, terminating in an arrowhead.
2. ~~Informative~~ **Other information** signs shall bear either white or light-coloured symbols or inscriptions on a dark ground **with a white rim**, or dark-coloured symbols or inscriptions on a white or light-coloured ground **with a black rim**; the colour red may be used only exceptionally and must never predominate.

Issue 3:

Articles 15 through 19 provide detailed information about G section signs (“Other information signs” sub-class) which should be better placed in Annex 1. Proposals to amend Articles 9 through 14 and Articles 20 through 21 will be provided in a separate document.

Amendment proposal (Issue 3):

Article 15:

Advance direction signs

Advance direction signs shall be placed at such distance from the intersection as will make them most effective both by day and by night, having regard to road and traffic conditions, including the normal speed of vehicles and the distance at which the sign is visible; this distance need not exceed about 50 meters (55 yards) in built-up areas but shall be not less than 500 meters (550 yards) on motorways and other roads carrying fast traffic. The signs may be repeated. ~~An additional panel placed below the sign may show the distance between the sign and the intersection; this distance may also be shown on the lower part of the sign itself.~~

The deleted text of Article 15 is revised and added to Annex 1, Section G, point II.1, as follows:

The advance direction signs may indicate on their lower parts the distance between the sign and the intersection or exit from a motorway. This distance may also be shown on an additional panel placed below the sign.

Article 16:

Direction signs

~~1. One Direction signs shall be placed at an intersection and may bear the names of several places; the names shall then appear one below the other on the sign. The letters used for one place name may be larger than those used for the others only if the place in question is the largest of them.~~

~~2. When distances are shown, the figures expressing them shall be inscribed at the same height as the place name. On direction signs which are arrow shaped, these figures shall be placed between the place name and the point of the arrow; on rectangular shaped signs they shall be placed after the place name.~~

The deleted text of Article 16 is revised and added to Annex 1, Section G, point III, new points 1 and 2, as follows:

1. Direction signs bearing names of several places shall show the names one below the other. The letters used for one place name may be larger than those used for the others only if the place in question is the largest of them.

2. When distances are shown, the figures expressing them shall be inscribed at the same height as the place name. On direction signs which are arrow-shaped, these figures shall be placed between the place-name and the point of the arrow; on rectangular-shaped signs they shall be placed after the place-name.

Article 17:

Road identification signs

~~The signs used to identify roads either by their number, made up of figures, letters or a combination of figures and letters, or by their name, shall consist of that number or that name framed in a rectangle or shield. However, Contracting Parties having a route classification system may replace the rectangle by a route classification symbol.~~

Road identification signs shall be placed along roads which they identify. They may be also placed on advance direction signs or direction signs.

The deleted text of Article 17 is revised and added to Annex 1, Section G – see Issue 1 above.

Article 18 – no changes

Article 19

Confirmatory signs

Confirmatory signs are used to confirm the direction of a road where the competent authorities consider it necessary, e.g. at the exit from a large built-up area. ~~They shall bear the name of one or more places, as provided in Article 16, paragraph 1, of this Convention. Where distances are shown, the figures expressing them shall be placed after the name of the locality.~~

The deleted text of Article 19 is revised and added to Annex 1, Section G, as the first sentence of the new point VI as follows:

Confirmatory signs shall bear the name of one or more places. Confirmatory signs bearing names of several places shall show the names one below the other. The letters used for one place name may be larger than those used for the others only if the place in question is the largest of them.

Article 21, point 1 – no changes

Article 21, point 2

~~1. — Informative signs may be repeated. An additional panel placed below the sign may show the distance between the sign and the point which it indicates; this distance may also be inscribed on the lower part of the sign itself.~~

This provision appears superfluous.

Issue 4:

Annex I, Section G, I, contrary to its title, does not only provide general characteristics of G section signs. It also provides more detailed information on some specific signs (eg. point 3) that should, more appropriately, be placed elsewhere.

Amendment proposal (Issue 4):

Annex 1, Section G, point I.3 should be entirely deleted:

~~3. — Advance direction signs or direction signs relating to motorways or roads treated as motorways shall bear white symbols or inscriptions on a blue or green ground. On such signs the symbols used on signs E, 5a and E, 6a may be reproduced on reduced scale.~~

Annex 1, Section G, point II, 'NOTE' is revised as follows:

Advance direction signs G, 1 may bear the symbols used on other signs **or show other signs on a reduced scale** informing road users of the characteristics of the route ~~or~~, traffic conditions, **facilities and services, parking or road identification** (for example: signs A, 2; A, 5; C, 3e ; C, 6; E, 5a ; **E, 6 a; E, 14; F, 2; G, 13**). **Advance direction sign G, 3 may bear the sign C, 11 a or C, 11 b on a reduced scale.**

Annex 1, Section G, point III, 'NOTE' is revised as follows:

Direction signs ~~G, 4; G, 5 and G, 6~~ may bear the symbols used on other signs **or show other signs on a reduced scale** informing road users of the characteristics of the route ~~or~~, traffic conditions, **facilities and services, parking or road identification** (for example: signs A, 2; A, 5; C, 3e ; C, 6; E, 5a ; E, 6 a; E, 14; F,2).

Issue 5:

Annex I, Section G, I provides general information on signs indicating temporary conditions such as road works, diversion or detours (point 4). This type of signs, however, is not mentioned again Annex I, Section G, V (Indication signs).

Amendment proposal (Issue 5):

Annex 1, Section G, point I.4 is deleted:

~~4. — Signs indicating temporary conditions such as road works, diversions or detours may have orange or yellow ground with black symbols and inscriptions.~~

Point 12 is added to Annex 1, Section G, new point VII as follows:

12. Signs indicating temporary conditions due to road works or detours

Signs G, 25 [a, b and c] are examples of signs used to indicate temporary conditions such as road works or detours. The signs shall have a yellow ground with black symbols and/or inscriptions. They may bear the symbols used on other signs or contain other signs informing road users of the characteristics of the route or traffic conditions.

Point 12 above and sign images for Annex 3 to be discussed and developed.

Amend the title of Article 31

~~Signs~~ **Marking** for **of** road works?

Contrary to what the title indicates, Article 31 does not specify any road work signs but informs about the requirement to mark limits of road works.

Issue 6:

Annex I, Section G, point II.1 (General case) refers to examples of advance direction signs in Annex III. There is need to provide more representative examples.

Amendment proposal (Issue 6):

Annex I, Section G, point II.1 (General case) is amended as follows:

~~Examples of advance direction signs: G, 1a,; G, 1b and G, 1c.~~

- (a) Example of advance direction sign: G, 1 a**
- (b) Example of advance direction sign showing a diagram of intersection: G, 1 b**
- (c) Example of advance direction sign showing a diagram of roundabout: G, 1 c**
- (d) Example of advance direction sign showing a diagram of road lanes: G, 1 d**
- (e) Examples of advance direction signs for placing over a road lane or lanes: G, 1 e and G, 1 f**

In Annex III, the images for signs G, 1 a and G, 1 b are deleted. The new image of sign G, 1 a is the current image of sign G, 1 c. The image for signs G, 1 b to G, 1 f are to be developed.

Some image examples for signs G, 1 b to G, 1 f are shown below:

G, 1 b

G, 1 c

G, 1 d

G, 1 f



Annex I, Section G, point II.2 (Special cases) refers to examples of specific advance direction signs in Annex III. However, these examples (G, 2 a, G, 2 b and G, 3) should be deleted. Signs G, 2 are not necessary because the new signs such as G, 1 b or G, 1 c may contain sign G, 13 and thus convey the same information as what G, 2 signs currently convey. The sign G, 3 is to be placed under the new point (f).

To summarize, Section G, II is to be amended as follows:

II. Advance direction signs

1. — General case

Examples of advance direction signs: G, 1 a; G, 1 b and G, 1 c.

2. — Special cases

(a) — Examples of advance direction signs for "NO THROUGH ROAD": G, 2 a and G, 2 b.

2b.66

(b) — Example of advance direction sign for route to be followed in order to turn left, where a left turn at the next intersection is prohibited: G, 3.

NOTE: Advance direction signs G, 1 may bear the symbols used on other signs informing road users of the characteristics of the route or of traffic conditions (for example: signs A, 2; A, 5; C, 3e; C, 6; E, 5a; F, 2).

(a) Example of advance direction sign: G, 1 a

(b) Example of advance direction sign showing a diagram of intersection: G, 1 b

(c) Example of advance direction sign showing a diagram of roundabout: G, 1 c

(d) Example of advance direction sign showing a diagram of road lanes: G, 1 d

(e) Examples of advance direction signs for placing over a road lane or lanes:

G, 1 e and G, 1 f

(f) Example of advance direction sign for route to be followed in order to turn left, where a left turn at the next intersection is prohibited: G, 2

NOTE: Advance direction signs G, 1 may bear the symbols used on other signs or show other signs on a reduced scale informing road users of the characteristics of the route or, traffic conditions, facilities and services, parking or road identification (for example: signs A, 2; A, 5; C, 3e; C, 6; E, 5a; E, 6 a; E, 14; F, 2; G, 13). Advance direction sign G, 3 may bear the sign C, 11 a or C, 11 b on a reduced scale.

Issue 7:

Annex I, Section G, points III.1 and III.2 refer to examples of direction signs in Annex III. There is need to provide more representative examples.

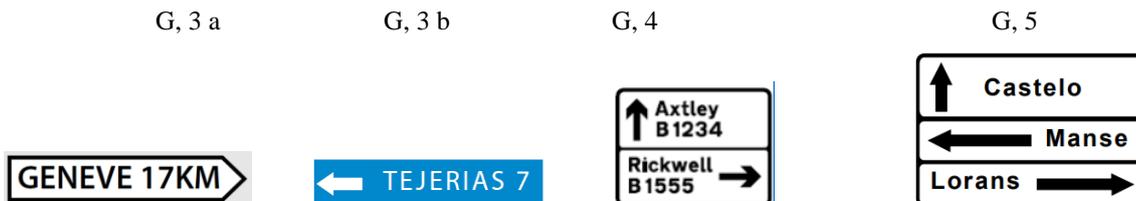
Point III.3 and III, 4 introduce signs that seem unnecessary in view of provisions included in Annex I, Section F, point I.2.

Amendment proposal (Issue 7):

1. ~~Examples of signs showing the direction of a place: G, 4a ; G, 4b ; G, 4c and G, 5.67~~
2. ~~Examples of signs showing the direction of an airfield: G, 6a ; G, 6b and G, 6c . 68~~
3. ~~Sign G, 7 shows the direction of a camping site.~~
4. ~~Sign G, 8 shows the direction of a youth hostel.~~
5. ~~Examples of signs showing the direction of a car parking more particularly intended for vehicles whose drivers wish to use means of public transport: G, 9a and G, 9b . The type of public transport may be indicated on the sign by an inscription or symbol.~~

- (a) **Example of direction signs showing one direction: G, 3 a and G, 3 b**
- (b) **Example of direction sign showing two directions: G, 4**
- (c) **Example of direction sign showing three directions: G, 5**

Some image examples for signs G, 3 a to G, 5 are shown below:



Issue 8:

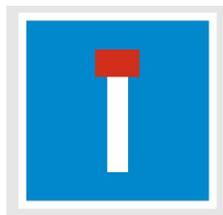
Annex I, Section G, point V.3 provides the definition of sign G, 13. However, to be consistent with point V.4, it should also prescribe the colours to be used. If not, all the colours applicable to G section for the ground and symbol may be permitted. The same issue applies to points V.5 through V.10.

Amendment proposal (Issue 8):

Annex I, Section G, point V.3 to be amended as follows:

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

The Annex III image for sign G, 13 will be as follows:



Annex I, Section G, point V.5 (a) is to be amended as follows:

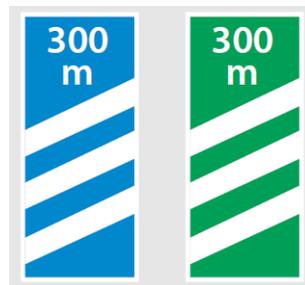
(a) Sign G, 15, “ROAD OPEN OR CLOSED”, shall be used to show whether a mountain road, particularly a section leading over a pass, is open or closed; the sign shall be placed at the entry to the road or roads leading to the section in question.

The ground of the sign shall be blue with a white rim and the name of the section of road (or pass) shall be inscribed in white. On the sign shown, the name “Furka” is given as an example.

Annex I, Section G, point V.10 is to be amended as follows:

Signs G, 22 a, G, 22 b, and G, 22 c are examples of advance signs for notifying an exit from a motorway. These signs shall bear the indication of a distance to the exit from a motorway, as determined by domestic legislation, provided that signs bearing respectively one and two oblique ~~bars~~ **stripes** are set up at one third and two thirds of the distance between the sign bearing three oblique ~~bars~~ **stripes** and the exit from a motorway. **The signs shall have a blue or green ground with a white rim and the oblique bars and inscriptions shall be white.**

The Annex III image for sign G, 22 a will be as follows:

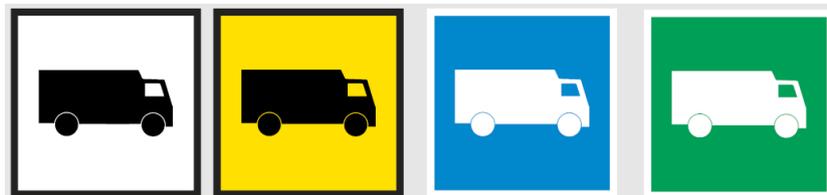


As for signs G, 17 through G, 21 (respectively points V.6 through V. 10) the colours of the ground and symbol should be decided and new text added as appropriate. The below images show the signs G, 17 through G, 21 should all ground colours of G section sign be permitted. These images are shown to facilitate the decision on colours that should be permitted for those signs.

G, 17:



G, 18



G, 19



G, 20



G, 21



Issue 9:

Should the general description of G section signs be changed (see Issue 2 above) then the text under Annex I, Section G, point V.4 should be amended correspondingly.

Amendment proposal (Issue 9):

Annex I, Section G, point V.4, second paragraph, first sentence (based on text included in Informal document No. 2, twelve session) to be amended as follows:

The ~~border~~ **ground** of the sign shall be in blue **with a white rim**;

