

Reduce Vehicle Noise signs

Operational Instruction 2.18

March 2025



Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

**Build.
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6	4 June 2018	New sign added
7	31 March 2020	Modify signing criteria and clarifying approval process for Council road
8	25 January 2021	Format changes / updates
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Approvals record

Approver	Position	Date	Signature
Stephen Pascale	Manager, Traffic Services	6 March 2025	Digital Approval 46884

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country throughout South Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land and waters. We pay our respects to the diversity of cultures, significance of contributions and to Elders past, present and emerging.



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1 Introduction

This document provides guidance on the Department for Infrastructure and Transport's (the Department's) requirements for use of road signs to advise truck drivers to reduce their vehicle noise.

When used in accordance with this Operational Instruction, these traffic control devices may be installed under the Minister's *Instrument of General Approval and Delegation to Council*, or the *Instrument of Authorisation and Delegation* to the Department's Network Management Services. Traffic control devices which vary from this Operational Instruction require the separate approval of the Manager, Traffic Services for each location prior to installation.

The Department undertakes noise mitigation when constructing new or substantially upgraded roads adjacent to areas that are noise sensitive. The Department's [Road Traffic Noise Guidelines](#) outline the circumstances where noise mitigation is considered. Homeowners may fund noise mitigation measures for properties that are exposed to existing noise or who are not eligible for noise mitigation under the *Road Traffic Noise Guidelines*.

2 Safety

The additional braking provided by engine brakes is an important safety feature. Generally, heavy vehicles fitted with a good muffler system cause minimal noise when the engine brake is used. Engine brakes are an integral part of a truck's braking system. It is inappropriate to advise truck drivers not to use a component of their brakes at locations where a safe stop is required.

3 Sign installation

3.1 Signing for the Greater Metropolitan Adelaide / rural townships

Vehicle noise advisory signs (TES 19483) shall only be considered on major roads that lead into Adelaide / rural townships from a rural environment to the start of the outer built-up areas of Adelaide / rural townships. The area that abuts the road must be predominantly residential rather than commercial.

Note that these signs have no regulatory force and are purely advisory only.



TES 19483

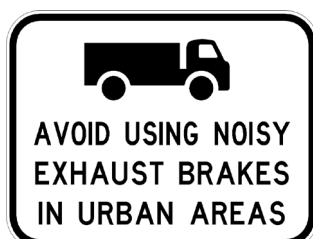
Signs shall only be used in accordance with the following criteria:

- The road is designated on the restricted access vehicle network. Refer to the National Network Map (NNM), published by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) for maps <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/route-planner/national-network-map>. The NNM is an interactive online map system that displays approved heavy vehicle route networks under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), including in South Australia. Conditions and restrictions associated with specific route networks are also included.
- Signs shall only be placed where the speed limit is 80 km/h or less.
- Signs shall not be placed within 300 m of a requirement for traffic to stop or slow for;
 - A signalised intersection
 - A pedestrian crossing
 - A roundabout
 - A rail crossing.
 - Any intersection if required to stop or give way.
 - An intersection if sight distance is limited.
- Signs shall not be placed within 500 m of a substandard curve (especially those incorporating an advisory speed sign).

3.2 Signing at specific sites

Signs should only be targeted to the most critical locations on the road network. If these signs are overused, this can lead to the proliferation of signs, thus reducing their effectiveness.

However, there may be instances where there is a requirement to target a location on the road network that directly involves the use of exhaust brakes. If so then the following sign (TES 14960) can be used.



TES 14960

Signs shall only be used in accordance with the following criteria:

- The road is designated on the restricted access vehicle network. Refer to the National Network Map (NNM), published by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) for maps <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/route-planner/national-network-map>. The NNM is an interactive online map system that displays approved heavy vehicle route networks under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), including in South Australia. Conditions and restrictions associated with specific route networks are also included.
- Truck volumes shall be a minimum of 100 vpd (measured between the hours 7pm to 7am) and comprise 10% or more of the total AADT.
- The built-up area that abuts the road must be predominantly residential rather than commercial.
- Signs shall only be installed on roads that have a downward grade of less than 4%.
- Signs shall not be placed within 300 m of a requirement for traffic to stop or slow;
 - A signalised intersection
 - A pedestrian crossing
 - A roundabout
 - A rail crossing.
 - Any intersection if required to stop or give way.
 - An intersection if sight distance is limited.
- Signs shall not be placed within 500 m of a substandard curve (especially those incorporating an advisory speed sign).

Sites are not signed on the basis of managing an individual complaint.

3.3 Positioning of signs

Positioning of signs must also comply with the following:

- On the left side of the road only (not in the median).
- Not be installed in a kerb extension or protuberance.
- Signs shall not impact on sight distance requirements at intersections, traffic signs or devices, or visibility to other road users, such as pedestrians.
- Maintain the recommended spacing between the subject sign and other traffic signs (e.g. 50 m at 60 km/h) – precedence must always be given to standard regulatory, warning and guide signs when placing truck noise signs. Refer to Appendix D of Australian Standard AS 1742.2 *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 2: Traffic Control Devices for General Use* (2022).

4 Approval

Installation of a sign on the Department's roads must be preceded by a written request to the Manager, Traffic Services. A request for an advisory road sign will then require due consideration in determining the true extent of the complaint. Consultation and liaison at the local level (e.g. council staff, police) may be necessary. Ineffective signs reduce their credibility, waste scarce resources, become a maintenance liability, create sign clutter and become unnecessary roadside obstructions.

Installation of TES 19483 and TES 14960 signs on council maintained roads can follow council's standard approval process and do not require specific approval from the Department provided they are installed in accordance with this document.

Signs should regularly be reviewed and only left in place if there is a continuing requirement. A separate record of these sign installations including location and date of installation.

5 References

Main Roads Western Australia (2010) [Policy for Special Signs: Truck Noise Advisory Signs](#)

Transport for New South Wales [Reducing Heavy Vehicle Noise](#)

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (2021) [Road Traffic Noise Guidelines](#)