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Highways Department Technical Circular No. 10/2001

Visibility of Directional Signs

This circular supersedes HyDTC No. 6/98 which is hereby cancelled. TD has been consulted and agreed to the content of this circular.

2. It is very important that clear visibility of directional signs is maintained. If a directional sign is partially or fully obscured by some objects such as a tree, it will cause late lane merging and weaving and presents a real hazard to other drivers apart from failing to give the information to the driver at the time it is required.

3. Regarding existing directional signs, HyD staff should continue to pay particular attention to such signs during their road inspections and arrange for relevant parties or HyD's contractors as appropriate to remove any identified objects obscuring such signs.

4. Regarding new directional signs or alteration to existing directional signs, it is the responsibility of the proponent of such signs to gather information for possible conflict between existing vegetation or street furniture and the visibility of the signs. For the avoidance of doubt, the proponent is TD for signs proposed/approved by TD for subsequent installation by HyD under maintenance or capital works contracts. Where HyD works staff notice that visibility of new directional signs is likely to be affected by vegetation or street furniture, HyD works staff should inform TD and if necessary approach the Landscape Unit for advice on how the signs could be accommodated with the least impact to the landscape.

5. Regarding directional sign and/or landscape proposals submitted by private parties or outside departments other than TD, it shall be mandatory for such parties to carry out a detailed survey of the existing vegetation and directional signs for incorporation into the submission. Details of such survey should include locations and types of existing/proposed landscape works and/or directional

signs. Regional Offices should pass all landscape and/or directional sign proposals which may be affected by existing/proposed vegetation to the Landscape Unit for assessment before giving coordinated replies. It should also be a requirement that such parties prepare a planting drawing showing all existing/proposed vegetation/directional signs together with visibility splays as a means of speeding up HyD's checking process and to avoid any misunderstanding resulting from the cross referencing of plans. Regional Offices should also remind such parties to consult LCSD/TD if the parties have not done so.

6. The requisite clear visibility splay is shown in Annex A. For further details, reference should be made to the Transport Planning and Design Manual Vol 3. Chapter 3 Section 3.2.3.

(Original signed)

(R. H. LLOYD)
Ag. Director of Highways