

Sizes for standard signs

Operational Instruction 2.38

April 2025



Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

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1	8 June 2004	Original issue
1.2	1 December 2006	B size for standard speed limit signs added
3	21 May 2008	Format update
4	18 February 2014	Format update
5	10 February 2018	Amend Table 2.1
6	14 July 2021	Format update, warning sign sizes amended (note added), Section 4 amended for consistency with SA Standards for Workzone Traffic Management
7	23 April 2025	Format update, document precedence and reference to Sign Index added, regulatory sign sizes for clearways, pedestrian crossings, speed signs added, S size replaced with AA

Approvals record

Approver	Position	Date	Signature
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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 selection of appropriate sign sizes for standard signs on roads under the care and control of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department). Councils may also refer to this document for guidance on the selection of signs sizes for use on their roads.

This document shall be read in conjunction with Australian Standard *AS 1742.1 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Part 1: General Introduction and Index of Signs*, Australian Standard *AS 1743 Road Signs – Specifications*, and the Department's [Sign Index](#). The Department's Sign Index provides the sign specification details of signs which are not included in the Australian Standards but have been developed for use in South Australia. For all other sign specification details, refer to *AS 1743*. Signs in *AS 1743* which shall not be used in South Australia are listed in the Department's *Code of Technical Requirements*.

This document provides general guidance on sign size selection for different types of signs. Where other standards such as the Department's *Code of Technical Requirements*, *Operational Instructions*, *Publications* or *Supplements to AS 1742* provide guidance on sign sizes for specific signs or situations, the guidance in those documents will take precedence.

2 Regulatory signs

Regulatory signs are installed to regulate the movement of traffic and to indicate when or where a legal requirement applies.

Table 2.1: Regulatory Sign Sizes

Speed Zone (km/h)	Sign Position	Sign	Sign Size			
			AA [¶]	A	B	C
≤ 70	Side Mounted	Bicycle Lanes			✓	
		Bus Lanes				✓
		Clearways		✓ **	✓	
		Speed limits			✓	
		Pedestrian Crossing (R3-1)			✓	
		Other	✓ *	✓		
	Overhead	Bicycle Lanes				✓ ‡
		Bus Lanes				✓ ‡
		Other				✓ ‡
80 - 90	Side Mounted	Bus Lanes				✓ ‡
		Other			✓	✓ †
	Overhead	Bus Lanes				✓
		Other				✓ ‡
100 - 110	Side Mounted	Bus Lanes				✓ ‡
		Other			✓	✓ †
	Overhead	Bus Lanes				✓ ‡
		Other				✓ ‡

* Only to be used on medians 0.5m wide or less

** Repeater signs only

† Size C signs may be used for enhanced conspicuity to the road user

‡ Absolute minimum size to be used

¶ Formerly 'S' in South Australia

Care should be taken when selecting appropriate supplementary plates for regulatory signs to ensure the width of the supplementary plate is the same as the sign; a size B supplementary plate does not necessarily correspond to a size B sign.

3 Warning signs

Warning signs are installed to warn road users of unexpected or hazardous conditions on or adjacent to the road. Warning signs advise of conditions that require the road user to exercise caution and may require the road user to slow down in the interest of safety.

The Australian Standard *AS 1742.2 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Part 2: Traffic control devices for general use (2022)* Appendix E provides guidance on the hierarchical order of enhanced treatments for warning signs, including sign duplication and the use of larger signs than normally required.

Table 3.1: Warning Sign Sizes

Speed Zone (km/h)	Sign	Sign Size			
		AA [†]	A	B	C
≤ 70	General			✓	
	Duplicated*			✓	
80 - 90	General			✓**	✓
	Duplicated*			✓	
100 - 110	General			✓**	✓
	Duplicated*				✓

* Warning signs may be duplicated on divided and multi-laned roads, based on consideration of traffic volumes and composition (eg % HV), severity of hazard, and other roadside infrastructure

** Size B signs may be used on lower standard rural roads e.g. roads classified as access roads; unsealed, low volume or narrow roads. Refer 'Road Classification System' (RAMA - RD - APP – 009) #13016143

† Formerly 'S' in South Australia

4 Temporary signs

Where temporary signs are used at temporary workzone sites along a road, reference should be made to Department's *SA Standards for Workzone Traffic Management* for the appropriate size.

Temporary signs used to warn of temporary hazards that are not related to roadworks, e.g. sign T2-13 WATER OVER ROAD, should use sizes as shown in the Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Temporary Sign Sizes

Speed Zone (km/h)	Sign Size			
	AA [†]	A	B	C
≤ 70		✓	✓*	
80 - 90			✓	
100 - 110			✓	

* Size B signs may be used for enhanced conspicuity to the road user.

[†] Formerly 'S' in South Australia

5 Guide signs

Guide signs are installed to inform and advise road users of the following:

- Directions
- Distances
- Destinations
- Routes
- Road user services
- Points of interest

The G1 – G6 and GE series guide signs do not have specific sign sizes. The sizes of all signs in this category are dependent on numerous factors, including the information to be displayed on the sign and the letter height of the text. This is also the case for some of the G9 and G11 sign series. Where there is a range of sizes to choose from, the sizes shown in Table 5.1 should be applied.

All text on guide signs should be legible to those for whom it is intended and that it be understandable in time to permit a proper response. *Refer to Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 10 Transport Control – Types of Devices (2020) Section 6.3.7 for guidance on sign legibility.*

Table 5.1: Guide Sign Sizes

Speed Zone (km/h)	Sign	Sign Size			
		AA [†]	A	B	C
≤ 70	G7		✓		
	G8		✓		
	G9		✓		
	G11		✓		
80 - 90	G7		✓	✓ [†]	
	G8			✓	
	G9			✓	✓*
	G11			✓	
100 - 110	G7		✓	✓ [†]	
	G8			✓	
	G9			✓ [‡]	✓
	G11			✓	

* Use size C if size B is unavailable

[†] When using the G7-13 (Help Phone), size B is to be used

[‡] When using the G9-73 (Merge Right), size B is to be used

^{††} Formerly 'S' in South Australia

6 Hazard Markers

Hazard markers are used to emphasize a marked change in direction of travel and the presence and width of an obstruction.

Not all hazard markers have a range of sizes to choose from, however in the cases where there is a choice, the following should be applied.

Table 6.1: Hazard Sign Sizes

Speed Zone (km/h)	Sign Size			
	AA [†]	A	B	C
50 - 70		✓	✓*	
80 - 90			✓	
100 - 110			✓	

* Size B signs may be used enhanced conspicuity to the road user.

[†] Formerly 'S' in South Australia