



Work Zone Safety Bulletin

October 2007

SPECIAL WARNING SIGNS FOR MOTORCYCLES

There have recently been several newspaper articles, comments and complaints about the use and misuse of motorcycle warning signs in construction work zones around the state. In an effort to address these issues and to reduce the apparent confusion in regard to how these signs are to be placed, this bulletin will address the requirements behind the signs and the existing guidelines (December 2003 memorandum) for their installation.

Requirements:

- RCW 47.36.200 and WAC 468-95-315 require in addition to standard warning signs that special warning signs for motorcycles be installed to warn motorcyclists at work zone locations that are potentially hazardous to motorcycles.

The legislature identified four roadway conditions that require the placement of the motorcycle sign:

- Grooved pavement (generally during pavement planning removal operations)
- Abrupt lane edges (typically during paving and pavement removal operations)
- Steel plates (usually temporary utility work, may not affect WSDOT very often)
- Gravel or Earth (many operations on the roadway or off could leave this type of loose material on the roadway surface)

What you need to know:

Design:

- During the design effort for traffic control plans, the motorcycle warning signs must be shown along with the placement of other class B warning signs used to warn of the actual roadway condition.

Construction:

- Ensure the contractor installs the signing appropriate for the actual roadway condition. Standard warning signs must be used to warn of the actual roadway condition, motorcycle signs will supplement the signs.

Maintenance:

- Install signing for the appropriate roadway condition, supplemented by the motorcycle warning sign

Supplemental guidance:

Consider the strategic use of a PCMS (Portable Changeable Message Sign) to supplement the standard signs with more specific guidance and direction if appropriate for the road condition. See the work zone web page link below for more information.

Where to find additional information and guidance:

- Design Manual (M22-01) Chapter 810
- Work Zone Guidelines Manual (M54-44), page 13 and TCD2 for typical signing application
- Work Zone Safety webpage: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/biz/trafficoperations/workzone/default.htm>

Contact your Region Traffic Office for more information and assistance.



Washington State
Department of Transportation