



## **Manual of uniform traffic control devices**

### **Part 15: Direction signs, information signs and route numbering**



AS 1742.15:2019

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### **Part 15: Direction signs, information signs and route numbering**

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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee MS-012, Road Signs and Traffic Signals to supersede AS 1742.15—2007.

This Standard is one in a series of 14 Standards which together form the *Manual of uniform traffic control devices*. The series comprises the following Standards:

AS 1742.1, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 1: General introduction and index of signs*

AS 1742.2, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 2: Traffic control devices for general use*

AS 1742.3, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 3: Traffic control devices for works on roads*

AS 1742.4, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 4: Speed controls*

AS 1742.5, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs*

AS 1742.6, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 6: Tourist and service signs*

AS 1742.7, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 7: Railway crossings*

AS 1742.9, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 9: Bicycle facilities*

AS 1742.10, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 10: Pedestrian control and protection*

AS 1742.11, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 11: Parking controls*

AS 1742.12, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 12: Bus, transit, tram and truck lanes*

AS 1742.13, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 13: Local area traffic management*

AS 1742.14, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 14: Traffic signals*

AS 1742.15, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 15: Direction signs, information signs and route numbering* (this Standard)

This edition of this Standard contains a number of revisions that reflect changes in practice. The more significant changes are:

- (a) Expanded guidance for direction signs at minor urban intersections.
- (b) The inclusion of specific advice on signing expressway-to-expressway interchanges.
- (c) Clarification of the use of supplementary advance exit signs.
- (d) Changing the vertical spacing around the legend on road name panels to 0.5 times the legend height.
- (e) The inclusion of signing adjacent to lane use (arrow/cross) electronic signing.
- (f) Updating of signs in line with changes in AS 1743 and AS 1744.

The relationship between Australian Standards and publications produced by Austroads should be noted. The former provides specifications and procedures that ensure that products and services are safe and reliable, and consistently perform the way they are intended. The latter provides guidance documents that deal with the design, construction maintenance and operation of the road network. Austroads documents are also used by road authorities in New Zealand.

In cases of similar subject matter, this is dealt with across both sets of documents and each document aims to provide information that is consistent, complementary and supportive of the other.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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# Australian Standard®

## Manual of uniform traffic control devices

### Part 15: Direction signs, information signs and route numbering

#### Section 1 Scope and general

##### 1.1 Scope

This Standard specifies requirements and gives recommendations for the design and use of direction signs and related navigational aids including route numbering for all roads including expressway type roads. It also covers general information signs but not street name and community facility name signs or tourist or services signs.

NOTE 1 Street name and community facility name signs are covered in AS 1742.5.

NOTE 2 Tourist and services signs are covered in AS 1742.6.

NOTE 3 Direction signs for bicycle facilities are covered in AS 1742.9.

NOTE 4 Other signs, delineation and pavement markings required at intersections and interchanges are covered in AS 1742.2.

##### 1.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document.

NOTE Documents for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 1742.2, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 2: Traffic control devices for general use*

AS 1742.5, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs*

AS 1742.6, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 6: Tourist and service signs*

AS 1742.14, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 14: Traffic signals*

AS 1743, *Road signs—Specifications*

AS 1744, *Standard alphabets for road signs*

AS/NZS 1906.1, *Retroreflective materials and devices for road traffic control purposes, Part 1: Retroreflective materials*

##### 1.3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Standard the following terms and definitions apply.

###### 1.3.1

###### **expressway type roads**

divided highway for through traffic with full or partial control of access and generally with grade separation at intersections

Note 1 to entry: The term includes expressways, freeways, tollways and motorways.

**1.3.2****focal point map**

map of the principal road system in an area or state showing the towns or cities (either within or outside the area covered by the map) to be used either as through route destinations from any point in that system or the destination along any intersecting road which is also part of that system

**1.3.3****shall**

indicates that a statement is mandatory

**1.3.4****should**

indicates a recommendation

**1.3.5****85th percentile speed**

$V_{85}$

speed, in kilometres per hour, at or below which 85 % of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a nominated point

Note 1 to entry: A guide to the determination of 85th percentile speed is given in AS 1742.2.

**1.4 Responsibility and authority for installation**

Responsibility for installing traffic control devices is vested in various state, territory and local government authorities. The installation of new devices or interference with existing ones without authority is an offence. Attention is drawn to the fact that it is necessary to obtain approval of the appropriate authority before installing any traffic control device.

Display of unofficial and non-essential devices by private or commercial organizations should not be permitted.

**1.5 Principles of good sign practice**

Principles of good sign practice applying to direction and information signs comprise the following requirements and recommendations:

- (a) They shall be designed to command both attention and respect by virtue of their composition, their presentation and the relevance of their message to the driving task.
- (b) They shall include no advertising or other commercial content, except as permitted in AS 1742.6.
- (c) Navigational information shall be displayed consistently and with continuity along a route and through changes in direction.
- (d) The location and visibility of signs giving basic navigational information shall not be compromised by signs whose message or location is discretionary.
- (e) They shall be positioned to allow both easy visibility and adequate time for the required response.
- (f) Direction signs shall not detract from or obscure essential safety signs and devices.
- (g) Their message should be simple and clear with content limited to that which can be read, understood and acted upon safely by drivers under the prevailing traffic conditions.
- (h) They should be provided in response to a demonstrated need.