

Traffic Note 25 – Revision 1

Date: December 2004
From: Safer Roads
Authorisation: Peter Croft, Manager Safer Roads

Signature: _____

No. of pages: 2

Retroreflective raised pavement markers – Information

1 Purpose

The New Zealand Fire Service approached the Land Transport Safety Authority (now Land Transport New Zealand) to formalise the use of blue reflective raised pavement markers (RRPMs) on roads solely for the purpose of indicating the presence of fire hydrants. This issue was raised, along with the use of other colours of RRPMs, as part of the consultative process leading to the *Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004* (the rule).

This note describes the outcome of the consultation as detailed in the rule, a suggested uniform approach on the use of RRPMs and the need for corrective action required for non-complying installations of RRPMs.

2 Blue RRPMs

The colour blue is seen by approaching fire crew in nearly all conditions they are likely to experience. The option to use a blue RRPM at fire hydrants has received general acceptance by road controlling authorities (RCAs) and these are increasingly being installed. Land Transport NZ supported the policy of marking fire hydrants with blue RRPMs through recent editions of the *Road Code*. These factors, plus a positive response to proposals in the draft of the rule, has led to the rule restricting blue RRPMs to being '*installed on, or just to the left of, the centreline of the roadway*' and '*used to mark the presence of fire hydrant or other water sources used for firefighting*' [clause 5.4(6) of the rule].

It is suggested the RRPMS be located close to, and on the appropriate side of, the centre of the roadway. This would normally be best at or near the base of any yellow triangle marked on the surface in accordance with the *Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings*.

Because there will be circumstances where RRPMS have not been installed or may have been removed inadvertently Land Transport NZ does not believe their use should be a regulatory requirement. Thus, for example, the absence of such a device will not be a defence for illegal parking.

3 Green RRPMS

With roads partially flooded due to blocked culverts or drains RCAs found locating the culverts or drains was aided by installing green RRPMS on the crown of the road.

There was not uniform support for this concept and some alternate uses were proposed for this colour. However, Land Transport NZ had no grounds to decline the use nor evidence to suggest the alternatives would provide additional benefits. Use of green RRPMS is therefore restricted to '*mark the presence of a culvert or other drain under the road*' [subclause 5.4(6)(c) of the rule].

4 Red RRPMS

Red RRPMS have long been established for demarcating the extreme left edge of the useable carriageway. Other uses of this colour, for example marking of private residential driveways by security companies, could reduce the potential effectiveness of the red RRPMS. The comments received in consultation on the rule supported restriction on the use of red RRPMS and they are therefore restricted to '*the left-hand side of the roadway to mark the edge of the safe, useable portion of the roadway*' [subclause 5.4(6)(b) of the rule].

5 Placement and removal of non-compliant RRPMS

The rule limits the use of RRPMS on roadways to white or yellow except in the specific situations described above for blue, green and red.

Placement of blue and green RRPMS should be generally in-line with other RRPMS installed on a roadway. In some locations they may be the only RRPMS installed and it is therefore desirable they are mounted in a uniform position, central relative to the road width, to ensure motorists are not confused or misled.

The limitation on red RRPMS does not necessarily mean red RRPMS currently installed at driveways for example must be replaced. However, where these existing RRPMS are displaying red in both directions (and therefore will appear to some approaching drivers on the right hand side of the road) they will be non-compliant. These, and any other non-compliant RRPMS '*installed before the commencement of the rule ... must be removed by 30 June 2009*' [subclause 5.4(7) of the rule].