

Traffic Note 28 – Revision 1

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Pedestrian crossings and school crossing points on roads with speed limits of 60km/h or more – Requirements

1 Purpose

Pedestrian crossings and school crossing points on roads with speed limits exceeding 50 km/h require the approval of the Director of Land Transport (the Director). This is also applicable to existing pedestrian crossings and school crossing points where the speed limit is increased.

This note details the legal requirements in regard to the installation of pedestrian crossings ('zebra' crossings) or school crossing points ('kea' crossings) on roads where the speed limit exceeds 50 km/h.

2 Legal situation

Clause 8.2(1) of the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004 (the rule) states: 'A controlling authority may, except for areas controlled by traffic signals, mark a pedestrian crossing across or a road for which a speed limit of 50 km/h or less is set.'

Clause 8.2(2) provides an exception to the general rule as follows: 'A road controlling authority may mark a pedestrian crossing on a road for which a speed limit of more than 50 km/h is set if it has obtained the approval of the Director and complies with any conditions specified in the approval.'

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Provisions for school crossing points, known commonly as kea crossings, are described in a similar manner to zebra crossings.

Clause 8.4(1) states 'A road controlling authority may provide a school crossing point on a road for which a speed limit of 50 km/h or less is set.'

Clause 8.4(2) states 'A road controlling authority may provide a school crossing point on a road for which a speed limit of more than 50 km/h is set if it has obtained the approval of the Director and complies with the conditions specified in the approval.'

3 Commentary

Land Transport NZ does not generally support the provision of zebra or kea crossings on roads with speeds greater than 50 km/h. However, these have been approved where the specific circumstances have justified this action.

Land Transport NZ should be consulted about existing crossings on any road where the road controlling authority (RCA) is considering increasing the speed limit above 50 km/h.

It is possible some existing zebra or kea crossings have not received formal Land Transport NZ approval. This could place pedestrians using the sites at unacceptable risk and, should an incident occur, not provide the expected legal outcome opening the RCA to public criticism or legal action.

4 Conclusion

RCAs should ensure each pedestrian crossing and school crossing point that exists or is proposed on roads with limits of more than 50 km/h have received the required approval from the Director. Applications for such approvals should be made, in the first instance, to the nearest Land Transport NZ regional office.