

5. Traffic Signs and Road Markings Requiring the Commissioner's Authorisation
- 5.1 Speed Limits
- 5.1.1 Private roads as for other roads will be subject to a speed limit of 50 km/h in accordance with Section 40 of the Road Traffic Ordinance.
- 5.1.2 The Commissioner may by notice in the Gazette, in accordance with Section 40 of the Road Traffic Ordinance, specify a road to have a speed limit other than 50 km/h, if he considers this appropriate. However it should be noted that speed limits other than 50 km/h will not normally be permitted unless there are extenuating circumstances to indicate that a lower or higher speed limit should be imposed.
- 5.1.3 Where speed limits lower than 50 km/h are considered appropriate, only speed limits of 30 km/h or 20 km/h will be permitted to be imposed.
- 5.1.4 The length of a road or series of roads where a speed limit other than 50 km/h is required to be imposed must generally be at least 500 metres in length.
- 5.1.5 In any application for a lower speed limit it must be clearly demonstrated why a speed limit of 50 km/h is not appropriate, and why vehicle running speeds cannot be reduced by the use of traffic aids such as, road humps or "slow" road markings to Figure No. 615.
- 5.1.6 Where an owner of a private road or his representative, requires a speed limit other than 50 km/h, he must first make an application to the appropriate Regional Office of the Transport Department. This application must include the following :-

- (i) A full explanation as to why a speed limit of 50 km/h is not appropriate, for example, why other means cannot be used to reduce the speed of vehicles on those roads.
- (ii) The speed limit required to be imposed i.e. 30 km/h or 20 km/h, or in the case of a higher speed limit 70 km/h.
- (iii) Five copies of a scale plan indicating the road or roads where the speed limits are to be imposed, together with the proposed positions of the limit signs, including any repeater signs. [Note repeater signs will normally be required at approximately 200 metre intervals on both sides of a road, and as for the main signs, will face oncoming vehicles and therefore will need to be double sided on two-way road. At the ends of the section where the different speed limit is imposed, on the reverse side of the lower (or higher) speed limit sign, a 50 km/h sign will need to be erected. For the main signs the diameter should be 600mm, for the repeater signs the diameter should be 300mm.]
- (iv) Evidence that the person making the application is either :-
 - (a) The owner of the whole of that road and not just part, or
 - (b) A representative of the owner, duly authorised to act on behalf of the owner.

5.1.7 Following consideration of the application the Regional Office of the Transport Department will write to the applicant within six weeks of the application being received informing the applicant that :-

- (i) the application is not approved, or
- (ii) the application is considered reasonable, or
- (iii) the application is considered reasonable subject to certain modifications.

- 5.1.8 If the application is considered reasonable, or reasonable subject to certain modifications, in the reply to the applicant the Regional Office of the Transport Department will request that further copies of the plan, or revised plan, and application be sent to the Transport Department for circulation to other interested Government Departments in order to obtain their views.
- 5.1.9 On receiving the views of other Government Departments on the proposal the Regional Office of the Transport Department after consideration of these views will write to the applicant informing him whether the application is approved or not.
- 5.1.10 If the application is approved then the applicant must within twelve weeks arrange for the appropriate signs to be erected in the approved positions, which must immediately upon erection be covered.
- 5.1.11 Once the speed limit signs have been erected the applicant must inform the appropriate Regional Office of the Transport Department, which on being satisfied that the speed limit signs have been properly erected, will arrange for a gazette notice to be published, and advise the applicant of the date of the notice and the date that the speed limit will come into force, and hence when the signs may be uncovered.
- 5.1.12 On receiving notice of when the speed limits will come into force the applicant must arrange for a notice to be published in at least one Chinese Newspaper and one English Newspaper circulating in the Territory, stating, the road or roads affected by the new speed limit, what that speed limit will be, and the effective date. A copy of each of the newspapers in which the notice appeared must be sent to the appropriate Regional Office of the Transport Department.

5.1.13 Where on any private road a speed limit other than 50 km/h has been approved, the owner of that private road or his representative must keep available for inspection a plan to a suitable scale indicating the following :-

- (i) The location of any signs.
- (ii) The speed limit shown on each of the signs.
- (iii) The size of the signs.
- (iv) The date the signs were erected and, in the case where a sign has been damaged or similar, replaced.
- (v) The date that the speed limit came into effect, and the reference number of the appropriate gazette notice.

5.1.14 It is stressed with regard to the above, that not withstanding the fact that a speed limit different to 50 km/h has been imposed on a private road, the Commissioner of Transport may if it is considered necessary re-impose a 50 km/h speed limit on that private road or impose such other speed limit as is considered appropriate.

5.1.15 It is also pointed out that speed limit signs erected in accordance with this Section must be properly maintained throughout the period that the speed limit is in force.