

Software which makes sorting the right sign a simple task is now available for other authorities.

# Latest regulations on tap

Software initially developed as a tablet programme to provide Camden Consultancy Service's street surveyors with quick and easy on-site access to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD) manuals, has been renamed and redeveloped as Traffic Signs Regulations (TSR) for consumer use.

The software, which is being released in a desktop edition, is an easy-to-access search utility for road traffic signs and markings. Regularly updated automatically, the programme comprises all the primary statutory instruments within the TSRGD manuals and the entire Department for Transport updates.

And unlike the original manual, which often necessitated shared use, TSR's desktop availability allows it to be accessed at all times by multiple users.

Easy-to-navigate search facilities such as drop-down menus and versatile search categories also make it more 'user-friendly' than its hardcopy predecessor.

Users will no longer require an encyclopaedic knowledge of street sign and marking numbers because the software allows specific signs to be found easily through descriptive searches simplified into categories which include type of sign and visual parameters, such as shape and colour.

The example shown (*right*) is a search for blue, round-shaped signs, which produces 13 options. This search can be refined for a smaller set, and there is even an additional option for text-based searches.

For markings, users can search by type, colour or text, or by using combination boxes to specify a single, double, dashed or continuous line marking, with or without text or symbols.

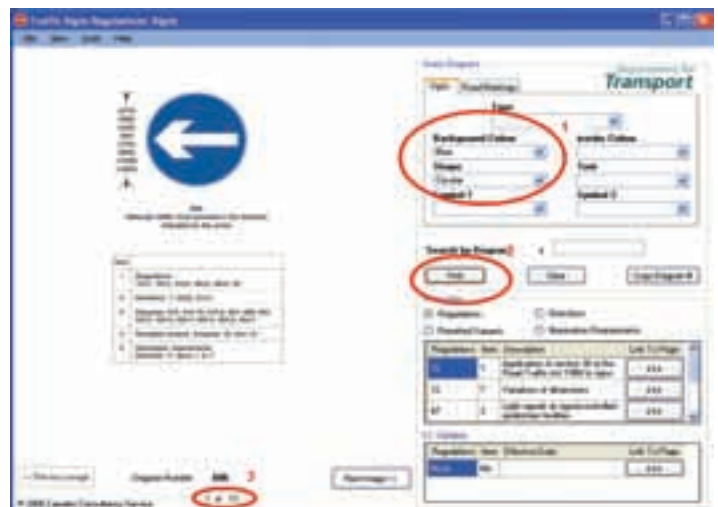
In addition, each sign or road marking hosts single click links from the programme's interface to the relevant regulation details such as permitted variants, including designs and any applicable illumination requirements.

TSR's creators are hopeful that over the coming year, the software will have built on these regulation links to include an increasing number of regulation chapters within its database, eventually leading TSR to be a one-stop resource for all traffic sign and marking inquiries.

TSR's future does not end there, as there is a plan to release advanced tablet and pocket PC editions, returning the software to its derivative and most practical roots of on-site usage.

Meanwhile, possibilities for tailoring desktop editions to meet the needs of individual clients by including locally-specific road signs and markings, to cover particulars such as red route schemes, are also in the pipeline, alongside the inclusion of electronic plug-ins for external applications such as Auto-CAD, Map-Info and Arc GIS.

As part of the Department for Transport's showcase, TSR was the focus of much interest and attention at Traffex 2007 in April. Consequently, TSR is expected to have wide appeal for local authorities, contractors, street surveyors, traffic engineers and sign



Search is over: Consumers can now access current rules regarding road signs and markings

designers and manufacturers, all of who currently rely on the complex hardcopy versions of the TSRGD manuals.

With full endorsement and backing from the Department of Transport it is now in use by more than 25 councils, and TSR is set to become an essential tool for all highways teams.

- TSR is available through The Stationary Office. Free trial licence information ☎: [www.camdenconsultancyservice.co.uk/TSI.html](http://www.camdenconsultancyservice.co.uk/TSI.html) or contact The Stationary Office @: [trafficsigns@tso.co.uk](mailto:trafficsigns@tso.co.uk)