



Joint Circular from the:

Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions
76 Marsham Street, London
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Circular Roads 1/97
(Department of Environment,
Transport and the Regions)

The Scottish Office
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SODD Circular No. 33/97
(Scottish Office)

The Welsh Office
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Circular 43/97
(Welsh Office)

The Chief Executive
County Councils)
District Councils) In England, Scotland and Wales
County Borough Councils)
Scottish Local Authorities)
London Borough Councils)
The Town Clerk,
The City of London

|| November 1997

Dear Sir/Madam

**THE ZEBRA, PELICAN AND PUFFIN PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
REGULATIONS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 1997**

1. The purpose of this circular is to inform you that the Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1997 (SI No. 2400) have been made to come into force on 15 December 1997. Copies of this Instrument are available from the Stationery Office, priced £7.20.

EFFECT OF THE REGULATIONS

2. The new regulations revoke and re-enact with modifications the existing 'Zebra' Pedestrian Crossings Regulations 1971 as amended by the 'Zebra' Pedestrian Crossings (Amendment) Regulations 1990 and

the 'Pelican' Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1987. They introduce a number of changes to enhance pedestrian safety and simplify the regulations while making them more flexible. They also provide regulations for Puffin crossings so that Puffin crossings can be provided without the need for approval of the Secretary of State.

PUFFIN CROSSINGS

3. The Regulations specify the traffic signs and road markings which indicate Puffin crossings, their stop lines and controlled areas (regulations 5 & 6 and Schedules 3 & 4); the significance of vehicular light signals and figures on pedestrian demand units at Puffins (regulations 13 and 15). A Network Management Advisory Leaflet 'The Use of Puffin Pedestrian Crossings' is available from the Driver Information & Traffic Management Division, 3/21 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR, Tel: 0171 271 5147.

MAIN CHANGES

4. Apart from the general authority to install Puffin crossings, the main changes are as follows:-

i. A controlled area must be set out on each side of a crossing - although this may be the minimum of 2 zig-zags where it is impracticable to have more. Zebra give way lines are now mandatory (regulation 6) and every globe is to be placed on a black and white striped post (Schedule 1, paragraph 2). These measures are to help reduce accidents caused by pedestrians hidden by parked or overtaking cars and ensure there is no doubt where a vehicle should stop at a Zebra crossing. The association of the black and white posts with the flashing globes will help the recognition of Zebra crossings at every location.

ii. Additional traffic signs may now be placed at crossings (regulation 9) and a new regulation 10 allows crossings to retain their validity even when there are minor non-conformities with the Regulations.

iii. As most road users, both drivers and pedestrians, would continue to treat a Zebra crossing as such with the temporary failure of a globe, failure of any of the globes at a Zebra crossing will not mean that the crossing has ceased to be validly indicated (Schedule 1, paragraph 4). All globes should, however, be restored to full working order without delay.

iv. Traffic authorities may widen Zebra crossings from 5 metres up to 10 metres without written authorisation from the Secretary of State (Schedule 1, Part II Diagram) and allow greater width between the give way line and the limits of the crossing (Schedule 1, paragraph 11) - bringing them in line with the previous Pelican regulations.

v. There is now greater flexibility allowed in the positioning of primary and secondary vehicular light signals at Pelican (and now also Puffin) crossings. (direction 4 of the General Directions).

MINOR CHANGES

5. The Regulations also contain minor modifications, which include:-

a) The variation of dimensions in the diagrams for Zebras, Puffins and Pelicans now conform with the variations permitted by regulation 12 of the Traffic Signs Regulations 1994 [TSRGD] (Table in regulation 7(3)).

b) National Blood Service vehicles have been added to those vehicles which may in certain circumstances proceed against red/amber lights at Pelican and Puffin crossings and green arrow signals may now be used at these crossings (regulations 12 and 13).

c) The studs at Zebra crossings may be omitted. Where fitted, the height they are allowed to project above the road now conforms with TSRGD provisions and conform with the requirements used at Pelican and Puffin crossings. (Schedule 1, paragraph 9).

d) The road markings, including Zebra white stripes, may be illuminated by retroreflecting material (Schedule 1, Part II).

FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS

6. Puffin crossings may be installed when the traffic authority have budgeted for their provision. Where alterations may be required to existing crossings, for example having a controlled area on both sides, a transitional period of 5 years has been allowed - regulation 2. As these minor changes could be dealt with as part of a continuing programme of maintenance works, there should be no significant cost or manpower implications for local authorities.

7. Telephone enquiries about the content of this Circular should be made to the following:-

For DETR: Road Safety Division,	Tel 0171-271-4757
For WO: Transport Policy Division,	Tel 01222-826505
For SO: SODD, Transport Division 2	Tel 0131-244-0837

Distribution enquiries should be made to the Highways Agency, Network Strategy Division, Tel 0171-921-2281.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Peal
Department of Environment,
Transport and the Regions.



Mr W R J McQueen
Scottish Office
Development
Department

Mr G A Thomas
Welsh Office.