PRESS RELEASE

Tread Carefully On Signage Compliance Warns MTS

The news about an alleged sign error on the M42 potentially leading to thousands of motorway speeding convictions being overturned is a timely reminder of the importance of choosing compliant systems for the road network, according to Neil Newsome, Sales Director, of Mobile Traffic Solutions (MTS).

Within the mobile signage sector, MTS reports an increasing number of highways contractors being enticed to use colour portable Variable Message Signs – which could mean they are unwittingly breaking rules set out in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD).

MTS - a sign developer and supplier of Mobile Traffic Solutions (MTS) - believes some highways firms may be unaware of rules in the TSRGD of 2002 and the amendments which came into force last year, which outlaw the use of certain colours for text and scrolling of messages on variable message signs (VMS) used on the UK roads.

Neil Newsome of MTS, which has its headquarters in Lingfield, Surrey, said: “The VMS can incorporate a red triangle or circle, but under no circumstances can the text be red or any other colour except white, off-white or yellow.

“However, we are seeing an increasing number of signs using red, blue and green to form text that is clearly aimed at traffic.

“This goes against the clear guidance on the use of variable message signs contained in the TSRGD 2002 Regulations 58(3) and 58(4) in the 2002 requirements and 58(2A) in the 2011 amendment, which states that symbols or text must be displayed in white, off-white or yellow.

“Contractors and hire outlets need to familiarise themselves with the rules and make sure someone on the job is responsible for policing the use of VMS to avoid the risk of non-compliance and the creation of an unenforceable road traffic sign.”

MTS, which has been at the forefront of sign technology for more than 25 years, is urging hire companies and project managers to source from distributors of completely compliant VMS systems.

Neil Newsome added: “There has been less attention paid recently to the quality of the displays on the variable message signs, which appears to have been a little neglected in terms of price pressure.
“The story of what has happened on the M42 demonstrates the importance of ensuring compliance – and to do that quality units should be rented or purchased, and colour LEDs and cheap alternatives should be carefully scrutinised.

“Ultimately it’s our customer who controls the displayed message, but at MTS we offer all our customers advice surrounding the lawful creation of road traffic signage.”

“Anyone looking to hire or buy pVMS technology needs to get to know the rules, and MTS is always happy to advise - giving extra piece of mind.”

National supplier MTS, along with its sister company, Rennicks UK, a key supplier of retroreflective sheetings and ancillary products to sign manufacturers are part of the Rennicks Group. MTS specialises in fully-compliant and portable VMS signs and state-of-the-art traffic or crowd management equipment to hire or buy.

The Advantage range of portable VMS use solar energy to increase efficiency, and the messages on all MTS signs can be can be changed remotely and securely using smartphones and PCs. All the units are compliant to current EN12966-1:2005 regulations, supported by test certification from BSI.

MTS also offers portable intelligent data collection technology for better traffic management as well as leading edge CCTV security systems and journey time management solutions.

For advice on how the TSRGD could affect your business, call MTS on 01342 836485.

For more information about Rennicks UK and MTS, visit www.rennicksmts.com