

To: All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning & Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All District Highways Managers

SUBJECT: CORRIDOR SPEED LIMIT PROCEDURE AND SPEED LIMIT APPROVALS

PURPOSE:

To confirm Ministry procedure for establishing speed limits on the provincial highway system.

PROCEDURE:

1. Legislative Authority

Under Section 146(1) of the Motor Vehicle Act, the speed limit on a highway within a municipality is 50 km/h and outside of a municipality is 80 km/h unless otherwise posted.

By erecting a sign along the highway under the authority of the Minister, the speed limit may be increased or decreased within the "speed zones" or the terminals at which the sign is erected.

2. Assessing Speed Limits

Speed limits on the provincial highway system shall be assessed in general accordance to the ITE document, entitled "***Speed Zone Guidelines - A Proposed Recommended Practice***", published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, # 410 525 School Street SW, Washington DC, USA 20024-2797. The assessment should be based on an engineering evaluation including, but not limited to, the following factors:

- 85th percentile speed,
- speed accident history,
- geometric features,
- land use.

A speed zone is a length of roadway with the same speed limit between terminal points.

Additionally, the following specific guidelines should be used when establishing speed limits:

- Speed zones on highway corridors should generally be a minimum of 10km long;
- Minimum speed limits on numbered highways: 50km /h
- Maximum speed limit: 110 km/h.

- Speed limit changes should be limited to 20 km/h intervals (desirable), or 30km/h (acceptable). If changes of greater than 30 km/h are necessary, a transition zone should be added. The speed limit in the transition zone should be:

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE	TRANSITION ZONE MINIMUM LENGTH
50 km/h	320m
50 – 80 km/h	480m
>80 km	800m

- 30 km/h school or playground speed limits are not to be used on numbered highways. School and playground speed limits are specific to their surrounding area. They are assessed by Region/District staff and do not require an H0223 form or HQ approval.

3. Speed Limit Approval

Speed limits are documented on the H.223 form. The speed limit must be approved by the Headquarters Senior Traffic and Electrical Engineer.

4. Speed Limit Administration:


- Regional Traffic Engineers (RTE) are required to submit completed H.223 forms to Traffic and Electrical Engineering Section in HQ, with analysis and rationale attached.
- Speed zone numbers will be assigned by Traffic and Electrical Engineering.
- Upon approval of the speed zone, Traffic and Electrical Engineering staff will distribute copies of the H.223 as follows:
 - Original to the District Highways Manager (DHM)
 - Copy to Regional Traffic Engineer
 - Copy retained at Headquarters
- District Highways Managers are required to sign the H.223, indicating the date the regulatory signs were installed, then distribute the H.223, as indicated at the bottom of the form. This distribution includes a copy to the:
 - Office of the Senior Traffic Engineer
 - Regional Traffic Engineer
 - OIC Integrated Traffic Camera Unit (ITCU), Richmond, BC
 - NCO i/c Regional ITCU
 - District Files
 - Centreline Marking Supervisor (forward only if No Passing Zones required changing).

- Sign placement in the field may vary by +/- 50m from dimensions specified on the H.223 form.
- The RTE is responsible for maintaining a current speed zone database.
- The signed original H0223 form is returned to HQ.

CONTACT:

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