Technical Circular T-01/19
February 15, 2019

To: All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning and Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All Engineering Directors
All Senior Traffic Operations Engineers
All District Managers Transportation
All Project Managers
All Area Managers
Manager Provincial Sign Program
All MoTI Highway Maintenance Contractors

Subject: Radio Assistance Signs

Purpose:

This circular replaces technical circular T03/06.

This circular establishes guidelines for the use of Oil & Gas Commission (OGC) and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development's (FLNRORD) radio assistance signs on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) non-numbered highways (secondary roads)

This policy outlines when radio assistance signs may be used and if used, what signs are installed on MoTI right-of-way.

Background:

Government, in collaboration with industry and other stakeholders, wishes to establish uniformity of communication between vehicles using standard radio communication protocols on resource roads. Resource roads include forest service roads, oil and gas roads, and other roads of a similar nature.

Resource road radio communication has been standardized by utilizing:

- standardized resource road radio channels
- standardized call protocols - call content and order
- standardized signage

Policy:

If industry (oil and gas permit holders or forest tenure holders), or FLNRORD wish to place radio assistance signs on MoTI right-of-way, the following guideline is used:

Signs may be permitted for placement on roads under Ministry control where low volume road design standards are not met. These standards are outlined in Section 510 of the BC Supplement to TAC (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/engineering-standards-guidelines/highway-design-survey/tac-bc).

The primary low volume criteria to examine are:

1. Stopping sight distance is less than 105m (70 km/h), or
2. Road width is less than 7.0m.

Signs may be installed if any of the above criteria are met for more than 10% of its length. For example, if 89% of the road is wider than 7.0m and 11% is less than 7.0m, then radio assistance signs may be installed.

Regardless of the engineering criteria stated above, road assistance signs may be installed with approval of both of the following MoTI personnel:

1. Senior Traffic Operations Engineer, and
2. District Manager, Transportation (DMT)

Existing radio assistance signs present in the field (established prior to the date on this circular) shall remain unless removal is agreed upon by both the DMT and local FLNRORD district staff.

Procedure

Installation of signs on Ministry right-of-way will be subject to the following procedure:

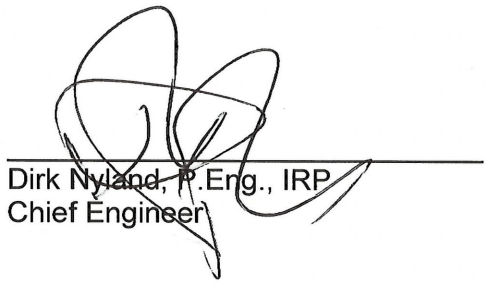
1. FLNRORD, or industry shall contact the local MoTI DMT with the proposed corridor (Ministry road(s)) at least 4 weeks prior to the requested installation date.
2. MoTI Regional/District staff will conduct a low volume road assessment.
3. Ministry will determine if the request is approved.
4. If approved:
    a. District staff will issue a permit with any specific conditions listed.
    b. Radio assistance signs (Fi-008 series), found in the attached appendix, and kilometer marker signs (G-104 series or FLNRORD equivalent) shall be installed as per the MoTI *Manual of Standard Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings* and the attached layout.
    c. Only standard Resource Road Radio Channels, as administered by FLNRORD and approved of by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), shall be permitted to be implemented.
5. School bus route requirements - If the proposed corridor is on a school bus route, industry shall undertake discussions with the local school board to determine if radios should be installed on school buses. A summary of these discussions should be made available to the DMT as soon as possible.

Cost

Industry, in conjunction with FLNRORD, will be responsible for all design, fabrication, installation and maintenance costs of radio assistance signs on MoTI roads which connect to resource roads.

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Radio Assistance Signs Layout

