

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| GENERAL SUBJECT: Signs | | NUMBER: MM-330 |
| SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Commercial Vehicle Restriction Signing | | DATE: June 17, 2004 |
| | | SUPERSEDES: TE-297 |
| DIRECTED TO: District Administrators | SIGNATURE: <i>R. J. Khoury</i> | |

The 2004 General Assembly enacted legislation amending and reenacting Section 46.2-803.1 of the Code of Virginia relating to lane restrictions for certain commercial motor vehicles on certain highways to be effective July 1, 2004. The amendments are shown in italics and strikethroughs on the attached legislation.

The specific requirements of this legislation are as follows:

- Prohibits commercial vehicles, except buses, from using the left-most lane of interstate highways having more than two lanes in each direction, regardless of the speed limit in the Eighth Planning District (equates to VDOT's Northern Virginia District) and on Interstate Route 81, except when necessary to exit the highway via a left exit.
- Prohibits commercial vehicles, except buses, from using the left-most lane of interstate highways, except Interstate Rte. 81, having more than two lanes in each direction and the speed limit is not less than sixty-five miles per hour in all districts other than the Eighth Planning District, except when necessary to exit the highway via a left exit.
- Requires commercial vehicles, except buses, to keep to the right-most lane when operating at a speed of 15 mph or more below the posted speed limit on an interstate highway with no more than two lanes in each direction.

While the legislation requiring operators of commercial vehicles to keep to the right-most lane when operating at a speed of 15 mph or more below the posted speed is a statewide statutory requirement not requiring posting of signs, signs have been developed to be installed at specific uphill areas where problems might exist. The District Traffic Engineer shall determine the location of problem areas with input from the Virginia State Police.

Ground mounted sign designs are attached for use with this legislation. If there is a need to install this signing overhead, the letter series/height, and sign height/width shall be modified appropriately utilizing the same messages.

Installation of signs to comply with the modified legislation prohibiting the use of the left-most lane on sections of Interstate Route 81 having more than two lanes in each direction, regardless of the speed limit, should be accomplished as soon as possible on or after July 1, 2004. Installation of signs to comply with the modified legislation that requires keeping to the right-most lane when operating at a speed of 15 mph or more below the posted speed limit shall be installed as soon as possible after determination of problem areas.

Attachments

cc: Mr. Philip A. Shucet
Don R. Askew, P.E.
Dr. Gary R. Allen
Malcolm. T. Kerley, P.E.
Ms. Barbara W. Reese
Ms. Constance. S. Sorrell
Mr. Jeffrey C. Southard
Mr. Greg Whirley
Mr. Roberto Fonseca
District Traffic Engineers
Division Administrators
Mr. Kamal S. Suliman
Resident Engineers
Mr. T. F. Chu
Mr. M. D. Hagan
Ms. K. D. Jefferson
Mr. S. D. Hanshaw
Mr. Dan Dennis

STEEP GRADE AHEAD

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
EXCEPT BUSES USE RIGHT
LANE WHEN OPERATED
XX MPH OR BELOW**

This sign is intended to be installed in advance of select uphill grades on interstate highways having two lanes in each direction to prohibit commercial vehicles, except buses, from using the left lane when traveling at 15 mph or more below the posted speed limit. Uphill grade locations shall be those where problems exist and shall be determined by the District Traffic Engineer with input from the Virginia State Police. Signing indicating the end of this commercial vehicle restriction is not required. However, if there is an uphill left exit, signs shall be installed allowing the commercial vehicles to use the left lane to exit. In that interstate speed limits are typically posted at 55 mph, 60 mph or 65 mph, the xx mph shown above would read 40 mph, 45 mph or 50 mph, respectively.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SHAPE | | Top Sign Horizontal Rectangle | Bottom Sign Horizontal Rectangle |
| COLOR | Message and Border: Field: | Top Sign Black (Non-Reflectorized) Yellow (Reflectorized) | Bottom Sign Black (Non-Reflectorized) White (Reflectorized) |
| SIZE | Horizontal: Vertical: | Top Sign 132" 18" | Bottom Sign 156" 66" |
| MESSAGE | Line 1: Line 2: Line 3: Line 4: | Top Sign 8" D ---- ---- ---- | Bottom Sign 8" D 8" D 8" D 8" D |
| MARGIN WIDTH | | Top Sign $\frac{3}{8}$ " | Bottom Sign $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| BORDER WIDTH | | Top Sign $\frac{5}{8}$ " | Bottom Sign 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| CORNER RADIUS | | Top Sign 2" | Bottom Sign 8" |

Notes: Vertical spacing between Line 1 and the border is 4" for the top sign and 6" for the bottom sign.
Vertical spacing between lines of text on the bottom sign is 6".



This sign is intended to be installed to prohibit commercial vehicles, except buses, from using the left lane on interstate highways having more than two lanes in each direction and conforming to speed limit requirements as established in accordance with Section 46.2-803.1 of the Code of Virginia. Signing should be installed at the point of the restriction and at every entrance point onto the interstate highway. Signing at the point of restriction should be dual indicated unless median geometrics prevent such; e.g., median barrier with narrow shoulders. When two entrance points are in close proximity of each other (e.g., cloverleaf interchange), a single sign may be installed just beyond the last entrance acceleration lane for each direction. Sign B is intended to be used in all locations unless conditions prevent the installation of that sign at the entrance points onto the interstate highway. In those situations, Sign A has been designed for use on the ramps only to convey the message to motorists.

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|--|--|
| SHAPE | Horizontal Rectangle | | |
|-------|----------------------|--|--|

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| COLOR | Message and Border: | Black (Non-Reflectorized) | |
| | Field: | White (Reflectorized) | |

| | | | |
|------|-------------|-----|------|
| SIZE | | A | B |
| | Horizontal: | 60" | 108" |
| | Vertical: | 48" | 84" |

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------|------|------|
| MESSAGE | Line 1 | Capitals: | 5" D | 8" D |
| | Line 2 | Capitals: | 5" D | 8" D |
| | Line 3 | Capitals: | 5" D | 8" D |
| | Line 4 | Capitals: | 5" D | 8" D |
| | Line 5 | Capitals: | 5" D | 8" D |

| | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|
| MARGIN WIDTH | | ½" | ¾" |
|--------------|--|----|----|

| | | | |
|--------------|--|----|-----|
| BORDER WIDTH | | ¾" | 1¼" |
|--------------|--|----|-----|

| | | | |
|---------------|--|----|----|
| CORNER RADIUS | | 7" | 9" |
|---------------|--|----|----|

Notes: Vertical spacing between the message and the border is 4.25" for Sign A and 8" for Sign B. Vertical spacing between the lines of message is 3" for Sign A and 6" for Sign B.

END COMMERCIAL VEHICLE RESTRICTION

This sign is intended to be installed at the point of the end of the commercial vehicle restriction that prevents commercial vehicles, except buses, from using the left lane on interstate highways having more than two lanes in each direction and conforming to speed limit requirements established in accordance with Section 46.2-803.1 of the Code of Virginia. This sign should not be used to follow signs restricting commercial vehicles traveling 15 mph or more below the posted speed to the right lane on interstate highways having two lanes in each direction.

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| SHAPE | Horizontal Rectangle | | |
| COLOR | Message and Border: Field: | Black (Non-Reflectorized) White (Reflectorized) | |
| SIZE | Horizontal: Vertical: | 108" 48" | |
| MESSAGE | Line 1 Line 2 Line 3 | Capitals: Capitals: Capitals: | 8" D 8" D 8" D |
| MARGIN WIDTH | 3/4" | | |
| BORDER WIDTH | 1 1/4" | | |
| CORNER RADIUS | 6" | | |

Notes: Vertical spacing between the message and the border is 5". Vertical spacing between the lines of message is 5".



This sign is intended to be installed in advance of a left exit on interstate highways where commercial vehicle restrictions have been established in accordance with Section 46.2-803.1 of the Code of Virginia. This sign should be installed as directed by the District Traffic Engineer based on the distance needed for commercial vehicles to safely merge into the left lane(s) to exit. Typically, this signing would be approximately two miles in advance of the left exit or near the point of the advance left exit signing, whichever is greatest.

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| SHAPE | Horizontal Rectangle | |
| COLOR | Message and Border: Field: | Black (Non-reflectorized) White (Reflectorized) |
| SIZE | Horizontal: Vertical: | 108" 66" |
| MESSAGE | Line 1 Capitals: Line 2 Capitals: Line 3 Capitals: Line 3 Capitals: | 8"D 8"D 8"D 8"D |
| MARGIN WIDTH | $\frac{3}{4}$ " | |
| BORDER WIDTH | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | |
| CORNER RADIUS | 8" | |

Notes: Vertical spacing between the message and the border is 6". Vertical spacing between the lines of message is 6". The message 295 SOUTH on Line 3 is used as an example; the correct message shall be utilized on the sign when fabricated. Line 4 shall be modified to state the exact number of lanes that may be used to exit, e.g. USE TWO LEFT LANES. Sign width shall be adjusted as needed.

CHAPTER 809

An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-803.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to lane restrictions for certain commercial motor vehicles on certain highways.

[H 1346]

Approved April 14, 2004

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § [46.2-803.1](#) of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ [46.2-803.1](#). Commercial motor vehicles limited to use of certain lanes of certain interstate highways.

Except where the posted speed limit is less than ~~sixty-five~~ 65 miles per hour, no person shall drive any commercial motor vehicle, as defined in § [46.2-341.4](#), on the left-most lane of any interstate highway having more than two lanes in each direction.

Furthermore, within the Eighth Planning District *and on Interstate Route 81*, no person shall drive any commercial motor vehicle, as defined in § [46.2-341.4](#), on the left-most lane of any interstate highway having more than two lanes in each direction, regardless of the posted speed limit. *Every commercial motor vehicle shall keep to the right-most lane when operating at a speed of 15 miles per hour or more below the posted speed limit on an interstate highway with no more than two lanes in each direction.*

The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) buses or school buses or (ii) other commercial vehicles when (a) preparing to exit a highway via a left exit or (b) being used to perform maintenance or construction work on an interstate highway.