



Manual of uniform traffic control devices

Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs



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 - Association of Consultants in Access Australia
 - Australian Automobile Association
 - Australian Industry Group
 - Australian Motorcycle Council
 - Austroads (Representative from VicRoads)
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-

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Australian Standard®

Manual of uniform traffic control devices

Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australian Committee MS-012 on Road Signs and Traffic Signals to supersede AS 1742.5—1997. It is one in a series of fourteen standards which together form the *Manual of uniform traffic control devices*. The series comprises the following Standards:

AS

- 1742 Manual of uniform traffic control devices
- 1742.1 Part 1: General introduction and index of signs
- 1742.2 Part 2: Traffic control devices for general use
- 1742.3 Part 3: Traffic control devices for works on roads
- 1742.4 Part 4: Speed controls
- 1742.5 Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs (this Standard)
- 1742.6 Part 6: Tourist and services signs
- 1742.7 Part 7: Railway crossings
- 1742.9 Part 9: Bicycle facilities
- 1742.10 Part 10: Pedestrian control and protection
- 1742.11 Part 11: Parking controls
- 1742.12 Part 12: Bus, transit, tram and truck lanes
- 1742.13 Part 13: Local area traffic management
- 1742.14 Part 14: Traffic signals
- 1742.15 Part 15: Direction signs, information signs and route numbering

Principal variations from the 1997 edition are as follows:

- (a) Expanded requirements and recommendations in respect of—
 - (i) use of logos; and
 - (ii) determination of likely sign length for a given street name;
- (b) The inclusion of advice on how to sign property numbers on kerbs in urban areas.
- (c) Provisions for the location of street name signs in Clause 2.9 have been changed from recommendations (should) to requirements (shall).

The relationship between Australian Standards and publications produced by Austroads should be noted. The former provides specifications and procedures that ensure that products and services are safe and reliable, and consistently perform the way they are intended. Austroads provides guidance documents that deal with the design, construction maintenance and operation of the road network. Austroads documents are also used by road authorities in New Zealand.

In cases of similar subject matter, this is dealt with across both sets of documents. Where this occurs, each document aims to provide information that is consistent, complimentary and supportive of the other.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

Street name and community facility name signs are an important navigation aid. Poor street name signing frequently gives rise to frustration, hesitation and inconvenience to road users. On the other hand, adherence to good signing practice aids road safety by providing drivers with essential information in an efficient manner so that their distraction from the driving task is minimized. Good practice includes taking special care in the placement of street name signs so that loss of conspicuity or legibility due to their small size is minimized.

Well designed and located street name signs perform an important traffic safety function, particularly in busy traffic conditions, by enabling motorists to identify an intersecting street without having to take their attention off the road for an unnecessarily long period, or slow down to a point where they could become a hazard to other road users .

The great variety and length of names given to streets necessitates exercising flexibility in the design of signs. Many local government authorities will wish to reinforce a sense of local identity by incorporating their name, emblem or logo in the sign. While the Standard makes provision for these, it is important that the additional information does not affect the legibility and functioning of the sign.

The proliferation of community facility name signs at some intersections can become difficult for road authorities and councils to control. If allowed to get out of hand, the excessive number of signs which may result at the one location, can render both the street name and the community facility name signs ineffective due to the inability of road users to scan all of the information in the available time. This issue, together with advice on how to handle the problem, is further expanded in Clause 3.2.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Manual of uniform traffic control devices

Part 5: Street name and community facility name signs

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements for the design and use of street name and community facility name signs on all types of roads except expressway type roads.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide road authorities and local government authorities with a standard means of signposting street names and associated information, and of signposting directions to community facilities with the aim of facilitating road user recognition of the signs. It also provides advice on property numbering on kerbs in urban areas.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1742	Manual of uniform traffic control devices
1742.1	Part 1: General introduction and index of signs
1742.6	Part 6: Tourist and services signs
1742.10	Part 10: Pedestrian control and protection
1742.15	Part 15: Direction signs, information signs and route numbering
1743	Road signs—Specifications
1744	Standard alphabets for road signs
4590	Interchange of client information
AS/NZS	
1906	Retroreflective materials and devices for road traffic control purposes
1906.1	Part 1: Retroreflective sheeting
4819	Rural and urban addressing

1.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

1.4.1 May

Indicates the existence of an option.

1.4.2 Shall

Indicates that a statement is mandatory.

1.4.3 Should

Indicates a recommendation.

1.4.4 Street

Any street, road or thoroughfare but does not include a laneway. 'Major street' includes arterial roads and other busy roads. 'Minor street' includes roads with less traffic.

1.4.5 Street type

The designation associated with the name of the street (e.g. Street, Road, Avenue). Street types and their abbreviations are listed in Appendix D.

1.5 HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS ON KERBS

Property numbering on kerbs in urban areas shall be as specified in Appendix C.

SECTION 2 STREET NAME SIGNS

2.1 GENERAL

Street name signs are located at intersections to enable ready recognition of the street name by road users, including pedestrians and cyclists. To achieve this purpose, the following general requirements and recommendations are applicable:

- (a) Street name signs displaying the name of each street, whether it is open to motor vehicles or not, shall be installed at intersections for the benefit of all road users, including pedestrians, except that it is not necessary to display the name of a major street at all minor street intersections along that major street. However, the major street name should be displayed at regular intervals; at major intersecting streets and more significant side streets.
- (b) Signs should be located where road users expect to look for them and where they are readily visible and conspicuous.
- (c) Colour combinations used on signs shall maintain the legibility of the legend in both day and night conditions. The legend should contrast with the background setting.
- (d) Either retroreflective material shall be used on the signs or they shall be internally illuminated.
- (e) Signs should be legible at a distance, such that they may be identified and read by an approaching driver sufficiently far in advance to permit any necessary manoeuvre.
- (f) The design should be simple, with the street name clearly discernible ahead of any other information.
- (g) Signs should be consistently designed and located.
- (h) Signs should be mounted separately from any other sign on the same post.

NOTE: Guidance on the design of street name signs is provided in Appendix F.

2.2 SHAPE AND SIZE

Street name signs shall be rectangular with the long axis horizontal. Words shall be written horizontally. Ends shall be cut square. The depth of the reflectorized or internally illuminated section of the sign shall be at least 130 mm, within a minimum signboard depth of 150 mm. This depth permits only the street name and, if used, property numbers under the street type abbreviation (see Figure 2.1, signs G5-2 and G5-3). Where an additional line of information is to be included, the depth of the sign board shall be at least 200 mm, with the reflectorized or internally illuminated section of the sign at least 180 mm deep.

At intersections on higher speed roads, where 130 mm lettering is required (see Clause 2.5), the signboard depth shall be at least 200 mm. For signs on these roads, the additional information referred to above will not be legible and should not be provided.

Consideration should be given to limiting the length of signs with regard to the structural factors for mounting signs and resistance to vandalism. Such considerations, however, shall not detract from sign legibility and the ability of drivers to read all of the information. The minimum length of a street name sign shall be 500 mm.

For adequate support and structural integrity of a sign, the maximum length should be 1200 mm for a single post end-mounted sign or 1800 mm for a centre-mounted sign.

Although two-post mounting may be used, for ease of reading the length of a sign with a 100 mm legend should not exceed 2 m.

2.3 SIGN LAYOUT AND PERMITTED INFORMATION

The information provided on a street name sign or sign assembly shall be as follows:

- (a) *Information on the street name sign* This information shall be limited to—
 - (i) the street name and street type or its abbreviation, e.g. RD, ST (essential);
 - (ii) property numbers for one block in one or both directions (optional);
 - (iii) the local government area name (optional); and
 - (iv) the local government logo (optional, see Clause 2.4 and Appendix B).
- (b) *Information on an optional supplementary plate* A supplementary plate may be installed directly beneath the street name sign. The information on the plate shall be limited to—
 - (i) property numbers for one block in one or both directions;
 - (ii) 'NO THROUGH ROAD'; or
 - (iii) 'TO (name of remote street)'.

This information shall be arranged on the signs and plates as shown in Figures 2.1 and 2.2. In all cases it is important to ensure that the sign layout is simple and that nothing in the combination of sign elements prevents the street name from being clearly discernible at the appropriate distance.

NOTE: AS/NZS 4819 provides the requirements and guidance for the relevant addressing authorities to assign suitable names for streets and the street type. An example of this guidance is given in Appendix A. The adoption of street names will require the approval of the relevant geographical names authority in each state and territory.

The street type abbreviation (as listed in Appendix D) shall be the same AS 1744 letter series as the rest of the street name. It shall be the same height as the street name or half that height. The top of both legends shall be in line. For driver recognition, it is preferable that the street type abbreviation is the same letter height as the rest of the street name, where there are streets with the same name but different street types (e.g. BAY RD and BAY CT). Where space is critical, it is preferable to use the half height street type abbreviation rather than use a narrower letter series for the name of the street.

Use of property numbers is recommended wherever a street extends across at least one arterial road intersection.

Signs in the G5 series (except Sign No. G5-11, see Clause 2.11.2) shall not include an arrow, chevron or any other indication of direction. The direction of the street is indicated by the position and orientation of the sign, as set out in Clauses 2.9 and 2.10.

2.4 LOGOS ON SIGNS

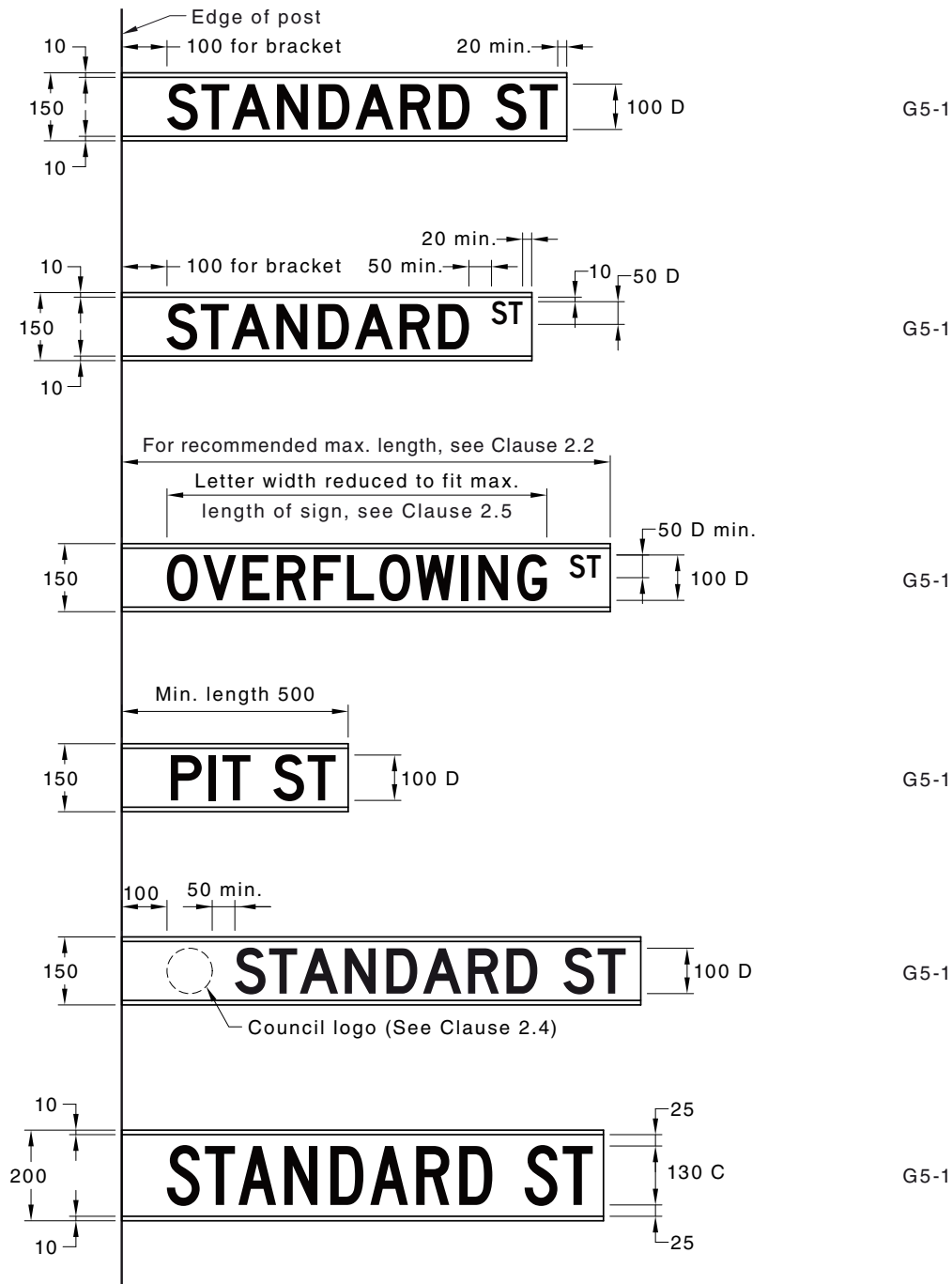
Where it is desired to use a local government or other authority logo on a street name sign, the following requirements and recommendations apply:

- (a) The logo shall be located at the support end of an end-supported sign.
- (b) The logo shall be separated from the street name or street type abbreviation by at least 50 mm.
- (c) A logo shall not be included on a sign if its inclusion results in the narrowing of the letters in the street name. The requirements for lettering are set out in Clause 2.5.

NOTE: Guidance on when to use logos is provided in Appendix B.

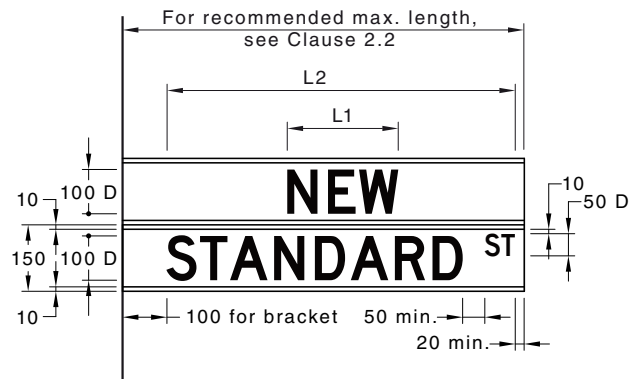
- (d) A logo shall not be included on a G5-1 double assembly.

- (e) The logo should be selected to avoid corrupting the essential information on the sign by inappropriate design, colour or spacing within the overall legend layout. In particular, use of a prominent letter which might be seen as part of the street name, should be avoided.



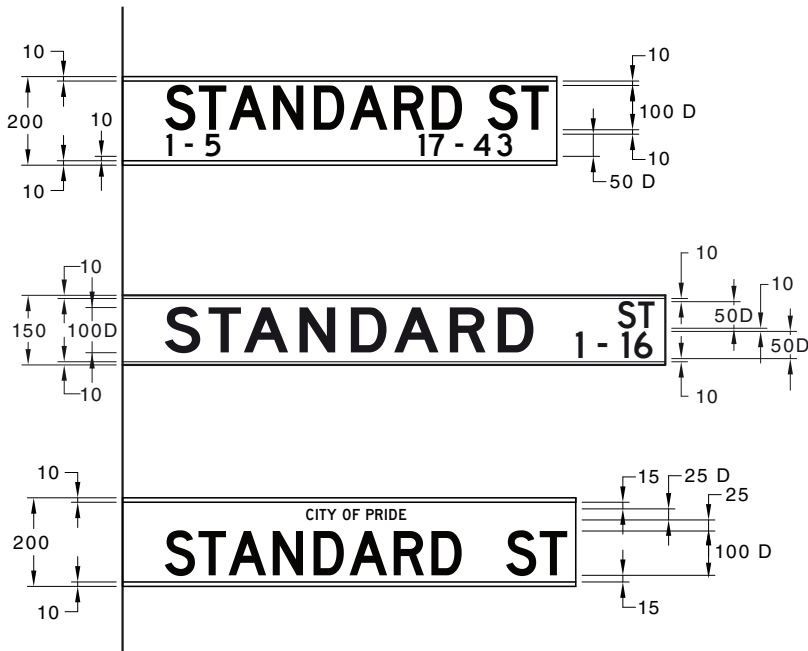
DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES

FIGURE 2.1 STREET NAME SIGNS (in part)



G5-1
Double assembly

1. The longer of L1 and L2 determines the sign length
2. Both blades to be the same length
3. L1 and L2 have a common vertical centreline
4. No logo: See Clause 2.4(d)



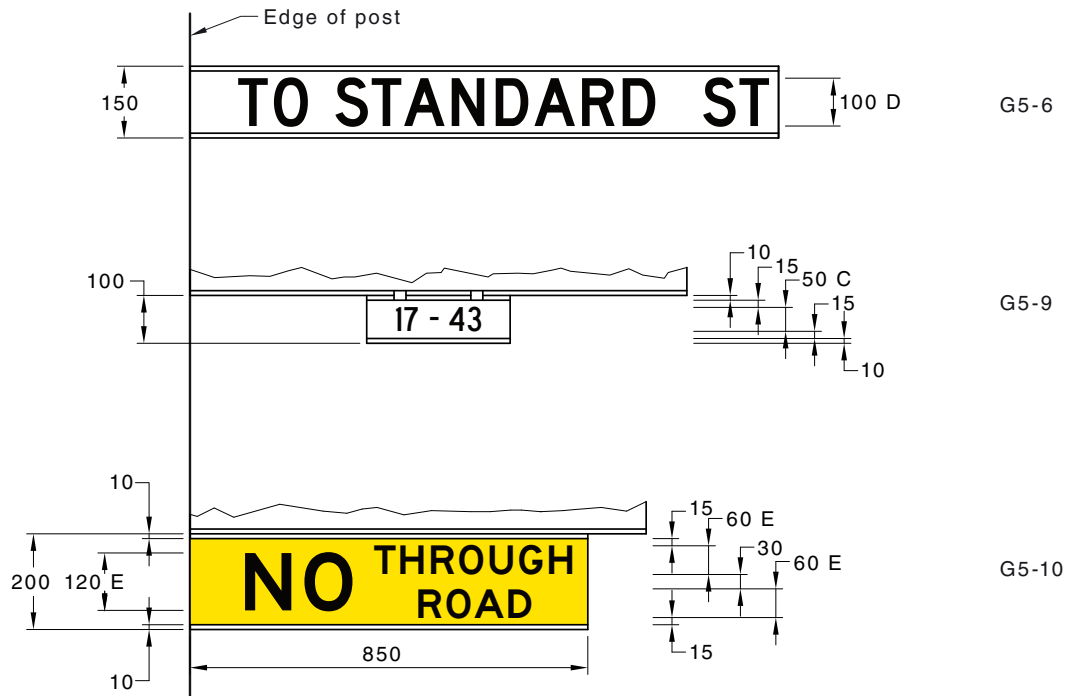
G5-2

G5-3

G5-4

DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES

FIGURE 2.1 STREET NAME SIGNS (in part)



DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES

FIGURE 2.2 SUPPLEMENTARY PLATES

2.5 LETTERING AND NUMERALS

Letters and numerals for the street name, property numbers and all legends on the supplementary plates shall be Series D, as specified in AS 1744, except that where this would otherwise result in an over-length sign. Where this occurs, the sign shall not be lengthened but the lettering may be made proportionally narrower to fit the available length, with the proviso that the letters shall not be narrower than Series C. Letters shall be capitals only. The street name should be placed on one line wherever practicable but may be placed on two lines if necessary to meet the specified AS 1744 letter series and letter height requirement. Clause 2.4 sets out when to delete a logo so Series D legend can be applied.

Minimum letter heights shall be as given in Table 2.1.

TABLE 2.1
LETTER HEIGHTS FOR STREET NAME SIGNS

Legend	millimetres	
	Traffic speed less than 80 km/h	Traffic speed 80 km/h or more
Street name	100	130
Property numbers and street type or its abbreviation	50	65
Local government authority name	25	*

* At these higher speeds optional information as set out in Clause 2.3(a)(iii) and (iv), is unlikely to be noticed and its inclusion is not recommended. If it is included, the letter heights should be proportionally greater than for the lower speed roads.

Where abbreviations of street types are used, they shall be as set out in Appendix D.

2.6 COLOUR

The recommended colour for street name signs, including supplementary plates where used, is a black legend on a white background. This provides the best legend contrast and best visibility for signs. Where it is desired to depart from this recommendation, the following requirements shall be observed:

- (a) Colours for legends and background shall be restricted to the combinations permitted in Table 2.2.

NOTES:

- 1 Table 2.2 is based on requirements for adequate legend/background contrast, adequate night legibility and adequate contrast with typical background colours.
 - 2 While digital printing of traffic signs permits unlimited combinations of background and legend colours, most other combinations will result in inadequate contrast or legibility.
- (b) Red shall not be used as a background colour or for the street name letters as it is reserved for signs relating to potentially hazardous situations.
- NOTE: Red may be used for the name of the local government authority, but this is not recommended.
- (c) The colour of retroreflective materials shall conform to those specified in AS/NZS 1906.1.
- (d) The colours of non-retroreflective materials and surface finishes shall be a close approximation to the colours specified in AS 1743.
- (e) Black shall be non-reflective. Standard green, blue or brown when used for legend may be non-reflective.
- (f) Supplementary plates shall have the same colour scheme as the parent sign, except that Sign G5-10, NO THROUGH ROAD (see Figure 2.2) shall have a black legend on a yellow background.