

Traffic Note 8

Date: July 1998
From: Safer Roads
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Signature: _____

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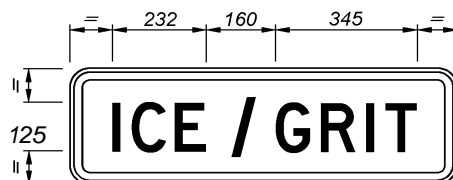
'ICE / GRIT' Supplementary Sign - Guidelines

A Coroner reporting on a fatal crash commented on Road Controlling Authority practices for warning drivers that a road surface could be slippery due to grit on the road after ice and other evidence of frosty conditions had disappeared. The Coroner recommended a special sign warning of grit on the road. Transit NZ consulted with practitioners and the Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) and decided a supplementary sign below a SLIPPERY ROAD sign (TW-17 in the *Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings*) with the words ICE / GRIT would best cover the situation. The LTSA has agreed this sign complies with the requirements of *Traffic Regulations 1976*. The sign will warn motorists of possible problems arising from ice and/or grit.

The following details the supplementary sign and the text that will appear in the *Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings* when the next amendment is forwarded to subscribers. Full technical details of the sign are available from:

State Highway Policy Manager, Transit NZ, P O Box 5084, WELLINGTON.

This *Traffic Note* is distributed to allow signs to be made and be available this winter.



Background colour: orange reflectorised

Border and letter colour: black

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Policy: A TW-33 sign consists of a TW-17 SLIPPERY SURFACE sign and a supplementary sign ICE / GRIT.

TW-33 signs may only be erected by employees of the road controlling authority or with permission of the road controlling authority by contractors or other authorised persons when grit is spread onto the roadway surface when ice forms.

Additional TW-33 signs, spaced no more than 2 km apart, should be erected along sections of road where grit has been spread on the roadway surface when ice forms.

Where several such sections of road occur in close proximity the first TW-33 sign may be augmented with an additional supplementary plate NEXT “__” km. Refer to TW-2 sign specification for details of the NEXT “__” km sign.

Where a TW-33 sign is to be erected near a PW-41.1 SLIPPERY SURFACE - WHEN FROSTY sign it should be located past the PW-41.1 sign by approximately 20 to 50 m and in such a position that both signs will be visible at the same time to an approaching driver.

The signs shall be removed as soon as the roadway surface is cleared of grit. This is the responsibility of the person in charge of the work party at the site.

The signs should be fitted to a white painted, (or, if made of galvanised steel or aluminium, unpainted) stand which will ensure stability under weather conditions likely to be experienced on all but very rare occasions, with the centre of the diamond sign being located a minimum of 1.25 metres above the road surface.

Location: Normally the signs are erected clear of the traffic lanes but where this is not practicable they shall be located so as to be clearly visible and not present an obstruction to traffic. The Transit New Zealand publication *Working on the Road* specifies location and layout requirements for Temporary Warning signs. Special attention must be given to ensuring the sign **visibility distance** and the **warning distance** between the advance sign and the start of the hazard area comply.

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