

SECTION 717

CONSTRUCTION SPEED ZONES

INDEX

- 717.01 SCOPE**
- 717.02 GENERAL INFORMATION**
- 717.03 SPEED SIGNS**
- 717.04 GUIDELINES FOR SPEED LIMITS**
- 717.05 BASIS OF PAYMENT**

717.01 SCOPE

Construction Speed Zones will be established on all construction projects or portions of projects requiring traffic control.

717.02 GENERAL INFORMATION

Speed limits must reflect the road conditions in existence at the time. Signs must be removed or changed immediately when the condition changes. When the road condition does not warrant reduced speed during non-working periods, overnight, or weekends, the signs shall be removed or covered.

For situations where a roadway does not warrant a speed limit reduction, however a motorists may need to slow down for a localized condition, an advisory speed sign may be installed to inform motorists of a potential need to reduce speeds. Such instances would be situations such as paving operations that have finished however, a low shoulder remains or where small milled or bumps are present prior to completing paving operations for a section of roadway.

On a divided highway, if construction involves only one side of the highway, the speed limit will be lowered in the affected direction of travel only and will remain unaltered in the opposite direction.

The reducing of a speed limit through the entire work project will not be permitted. Having each work zone individually considered, based on the general geometric conditions of the work zone, is the only acceptable method of speed limit signing.

All conflicting speed limit signs within the reduced speed zone shall be removed or covered while the temporary speed limit is in effect.

Double fines apply in construction zones. In order for the regulations to be enforced, the speed limit and the beginning and end of the construction zone must be marked. Advanced warning signage of the double fine penalty is not always required but should be provided on long projects at the beginning of the project limit in the advance warning area (Sign TC-CZ3) and also on projects where the work will be long term on high speed and high volume roads.

717.03 SPEED SIGNS

All speed limits shall be signed using reflectorized maximum speed limit signs as specified in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada.

All speed limits indicated on these signs shall be in 10 km/h increments.

Maximum Speed Ahead signs are required where speed limit reductions of more than 10 km/h are present. When required these signs shall be placed 150 to 250 metres in advance of a construction speed sign.

Where the Maximum Speed Ahead sign is positioned in advance of normal temporary condition signage an advance "Construction Ahead" sign must be installed ahead of the speed ahead sign.

At the end of the construction zone, which has a reduced speed limit posted, a speed limit sign shall be posted indicating a return to the normal speed limit on that particular section of highway. This sign may be omitted if there exists a permanently installed speed limit sign within 300 metres of the end of the reduced speed zone.

The Department may expropriate reduced speed limit signs left in place when the work zone condition does not warrant any reduction.

717.04 GUIDELINES FOR SPEED LIMITS

The recommended speed limits shown in Table 717.04.01 are provided for geometrics only. Sound technical judgment must be used to adjust these speeds depending on the surface condition, the proximity and number of workers, equipment, and type of obstruction to the through traffic.

Table 717.04.01

CONSTRUCTION ZONE SPEED LIMIT	SIGHT DISTANCE IN EACH DIRECTION
90 km/h	280 m or greater
80 km/h	230 m – 279 m
70 km/h	200 m – 229 m
60 km/h	170 m – 199 m
50 km/h	140 m – 169 m
40 km/h	110 m – 139 m
30 km/h	Less than 110 m

717.05 BASIS OF PAYMENT

All costs associated with provision and maintenance of construction speed zones to standards as outlined in this section including costs of the signs, handling, installation, materials, and labour shall be paid by the Contractor and no payment shall be considered by the Department.