

One of the changes the new safety code introduced was a requirement for 750 mm traffic cones to be used on single carriageway roads with a speed limit of 50 mph or more. This was included to improve consistency between the code and Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

In addition to static sites, this requirement applies to short duration works that last more than 15 minutes. However, it is recognised that it is not always practicable to carry 750 mm cones in the smaller vehicles sometimes used for short duration stops. This note explains that, where it is appropriate, 450 mm cones may be used.

The first paragraph on page 91 says "Some short duration works may be undertaken without the use of static signs or cones provided that a site specific risk assessment demonstrates that traffic can pass the works vehicle safely and without difficulty, and there is low risk to operatives and road users"

Although it does not specifically mention the possibility of determining through a risk assessment that smaller sized cones might be acceptable, such a consideration is within the spirit of the code.

This clarification should not be perceived as a licence to use smaller cones as a matter of course on such short duration works. A risk assessment must be able to clearly demonstrate, for each site, that the use of smaller cones will not compromise safety.