

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS
	SECTION	WARNING SIGNS
	SUB-SECTION	

General

During colder months, when the temperature approaches the freezing point, a surface over a bridge may have a tendency to become icy or frosted before the adjacent road does. This hazardous condition is called differential freezing, and occurs when the bridge deck is frozen but the adjacent road is not.

Hazardous moisture conditions can also develop on sections of roadway. The formation of water or ice film on the paved surface of roadway sections can be extremely treacherous for motorists.

To maintain public safety, it may be important to warn motorists of the possibility of these conditions so they can make appropriate adjustments to their speed or level of alertness.

Standard

A Slippery Conditions Ahead warning sign assembly is installed in advance of a roadway section where it is desirable to warn motorists of a potential for vehicle skidding due to icy or wet surface conditions.

This sign arrangement can be in one of three forms. The Slippery Conditions Ahead sign can be combined with one of the following tabs to advise motorists of different skidding conditions:

- Icy Bridge Deck tab
- Slippery When Wet tab
- Icy Patches tab

A standard Slippery Conditions Ahead sign (WC-5) consists of a black symbol and border on a yellow background.



WC-5	750 mm x 750 mm	
Colour	Symbol and border Background	Black Yellow
Sheeting	ASTM Type III or IV	

The standard size of a Slippery Conditions Ahead sign is **750 mm x 750 mm**.

The Icy Bridge Deck tab sign (WC-5B-T) should be attached below the Slippery Conditions Ahead warning sign (WC-5) in advance of a bridge or overpass when it is desirable to warn motorists of a potential for vehicle skidding due to hazardous bridge icing conditions.



WC-5B-T	600 mm x 300 mm	
Colour	Message and border Background	Black Yellow
Sheeting	ASTM Type III or IV	

WC-5A-T	600 mm x 300 mm	
Colour	Message and border Background	Black Yellow
Sheeting	ASTM Type III or IV	

The Slippery When Wet tab sign (WC-5-T) should be attached below the Slippery Conditions Ahead sign (WC-5) in advance of roadway sections where it is desirable to warn motorists of a potential for vehicle skidding due to wet pavement conditions.



WC-5-T	600 mm x 300 mm	
Colour	Message and border Background	Black Yellow
Sheeting	ASTM Type III or IV	

The Icy Patches tab sign (WC-5A-T) should be attached below the Slippery Conditions Ahead warning sign (WC-5) in advance of roadway sections where it is desirable to warn motorists of a potential for vehicle skidding due to icy pavement conditions.

Guidelines for Use

The Slippery Conditions Ahead sign assembly may be considered if one of the following conditions exists:

- (a) Recurring collision experience attributed to bridge icing or frequent reported incidents of vehicles skidding along the bridge deck.
- (b) Bridge is exposed to spray or high humidity conditions.
- (c) Persistent maintenance problems due to formation of ice or moisture build-up (water film) along the bridge deck that may create a potential for vehicle skidding.
- (d) Inadequate drainage frequently enables water film to build on a paved road section, creating the risk of hydroplaning.
- (e) Conditions on a paved road section are such that extensive and hazardous icy patches frequently develop.

Bridge surface and geometric conditions often contribute to the build-up of moisture or ice along the deck surface. Steel-decked bridges and those constructed with vertical and horizontal curves are often potential candidates for the Slippery Conditions Ahead sign assembly.

Short-span bridges (30 metres or less) and culvert overpasses with paved roadway surfaces are likely to be less prone to icy surface conditions. Advance warning signing prior to short-span bridges or culverts is not normally required.

The sign should be removed or covered when seasonal conditions make its message irrelevant.

Guidelines for Placement

The Slippery Conditions Ahead sign assembly should be placed 150 to 200 metres in advance of the qualifying bridge, overpass, or roadway section to advise drivers of the potentially dangerous conditions. Signs are installed on the right side of the highway for both directions of travel, or on both sides of the highway in each direction on divided highways.

Lateral and vertical sign placement should conform to the guidelines outlined in the Recommended Practices guideline entitled Placement of Signs.

References to Standards

Recommended Practices, Section: General	Placement of Signs
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