

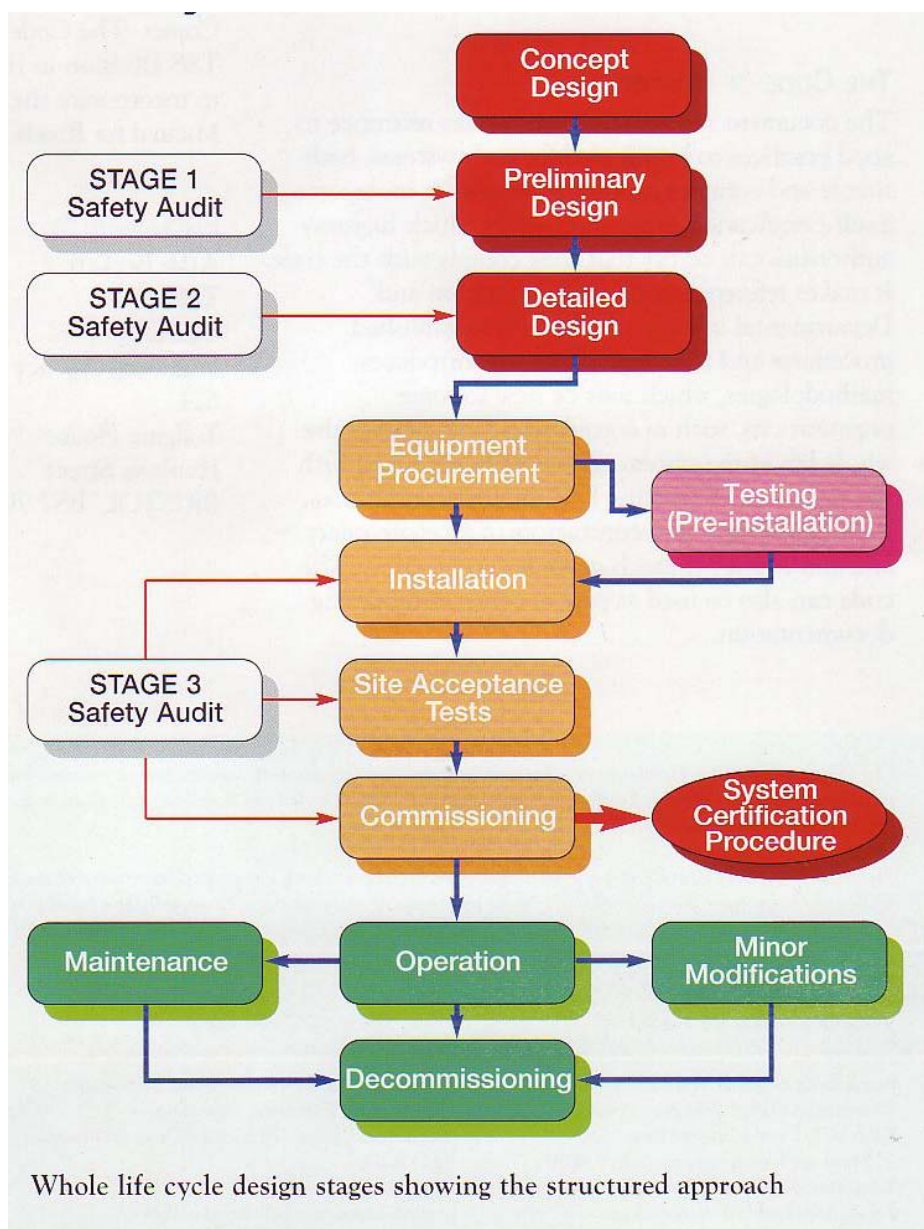
Traffic Advisory Leaflet 17/99
December 1999



Code of practice for traffic control and information systems

Introduction

This leaflet draws attention to the Code of Practice for Traffic Control and Information Systems (MCH 1869), published by the Highways Agency in April 1999.



Background

Systems for controlling traffic or providing information to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists are growing in complexity. The range of solutions available is getting wider. It is important that the safety of these systems is assured by good practice, from design to de-commissioning. Some aspects of good practice, together with legislation and guidance, are already provided by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in individual documents. Working together with representatives from local authorities, industry and DETR(C), the Highways Agency commissioned this Code of Practice, to act as a central reference document.

The Code of Practice

The document recommends and makes reference to good practices to be adopted for such systems, both simple and complex, during all stages. It incorporates a self-certification procedure, under which highway authorities can certify that they comply with the code. It makes reference to existing legislation and Departmental advice, and describes established procedures and new approaches. It introduces methodologies, which may be new to some organisations, such as considering the cost over the whole life of the system. It has been produced with the main aim of assisting U.K. highway authorities, their consultants and contractors to promote safety and consistency through good design practice. The code can also be used as part of contract tendering documentation.

The code applies to roadside systems, on all public roads except motorways, that convey instructions or information to road users through signal control, variable message signs or symbols. It covers conventional traffic signalling systems, signal controlled crossings and innovative systems incorporating driver information. Such systems incorporate a control system, which will be electrical, electronic or electro-mechanical. Purely mechanical systems are excluded.

The code was issued in draft, piloted by a number of highway authorities in 1998 and subsequently published as MCH 1869 in 1999.

Copies of The Code of Practice are available free from TSS Division in the Highways Agency. It is intended to incorporate the publication within the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges early in 2000.

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The Department for Transport sponsors a wide range of research into traffic management issues. The results published in TAL's are applicable to England, Wales and Scotland. Attention is drawn to variations in statutory provisions or administrative practices between the countries.

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