



Local councils are now able to put up signs such as this wherever they feel appropriate without reference to central government.

# Keeping HGVs on the right road

Ministers are tackling the misery caused by lorry drivers following satnavs down narrow and inappropriate roads as part of a package of new traffic signs rules.

Under the new rules, laid before parliament by Transport Minister Norman Baker, councils will no longer need Whitehall approval to introduce certain new signs or some existing ones that they need to use on a regular basis, including one to warn lorry drivers of unsuitable roads. The government believes the changes will cut bureaucracy and give councils the flexibility to make sure their roads reflect the reality of modern driving and cycling.

Among the new signs councils will now be able to use without needing to get government approval are those indicating that a route is unsuitable for lorries - designed to tackle the problem of lorry drivers using inappropriate roads because they are following satnavs - and signs indicating charging points for low emission vehicles.

Norman Baker said: "I am bringing an end to the ludicrous situation where councils have to come to central government for permission to put up signs they need to use on a regular basis to manage their roads. This will also allow them to more easily introduce new signs - like those which will prevent satnavs directing huge lorries down narrow country lanes".



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Norman Baker

He concluded: "By adding these signs to the list of those which councils can use without needing Whitehall approval we will be reducing costs and bureaucracy as well as making sure that the needs of 21st century drivers and cyclists are met."

The statutory instrument outlining the changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions was due to take effect from 30 January, 2012.

# THE PAST IN PICTURES



Packing perfection - a crate packed by John Masons, destined for Sweden, together with part of the customer's letter, as quoted below.

# Wooden lift van success for John Mason

John Mason first began appointing agents for overseas removals in 1926. This was also the year in which wooden lift vans for rail transportation were bought by the company. One of the first removals abroad was a shipment from Liverpool to Stockholm, Sweden in the 1930s.

Below is an extract from the customer's letter to John Mason's office in Liverpool acknowledging the arrival of the furniture, circa 1930s.

'... It is all safely installed now. Messrs Arfstroms (referring to Arfstroms Express, John Mason's overseas agent for Sweden at the time) were really far ...'

excellent and decent people. They, and all of us, were very impressed by the beautiful packing and the excellent condition in which it all arrived. (A load of furniture from Germany from another company, which came by rail the day before, was almost completely destroyed by bad packing.) There were no breakages in any articles, and the barometer works as usual, no mercury split. To our surprise, the bedding was not at all damp, we actually used the beds the same night. The wireless is perfect too. It's unbelievable knowing the load has come so

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