Traffic Cones Guidelines – Publication 12

This document has been produced by Transport Services Division as a guide for the use of traffic cones on roads and footpaths in South Australia. It has been designed to complement Australian Standards 1742.3 Section 3.9.1 Traffic Cones and Temporary Bollards and Appendix A Daily Routine Tasks and Record Keeping.

A traffic cone is hollow cone of fluorescent red or fluorescent orange material that is resilient to impact and will not damage vehicles when hit at low speed AS 1742.3, Section 3.9.1.

Traffic cones are used to define the pathway in which either pedestrian or vehicular traffic are required to navigate in order to safely travel through, past and around the work area. They should be spaced in a manner so as to discourage entry to the work site by either pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

It is recommended that the 450mm to 500mm traffic cone be used on low speed urban and rural roads and where activities are to be performed on freeways and high speed roads the 700mm and over traffic cone should be used.

For night-time use, all traffic cones must be fitted with a white retro reflective band that covers the middle third of the surface of the cone. A 150mm – width band is to be used on a 450mm to 500 mm – traffic cone and 250mm – width band is to be used on a 700mm and over traffic cone.

There are numerous activities for which traffic cones can be used on roads or footpaths. It is the responsibility of each company or individual to conduct a risk assessment specific to the activity for which the cones are to be used.

This will identify the amount of traffic cones to be used, the distance between each traffic cone and the way they are positioned to safely complete the task/activity being performed.

Records MUST be kept of when, where, how many traffic cones are to be used and how they are positioned on every job or activity.

Documenting these records can be as simple as drawing a sketch of the job or activity that you are about to do in a diary or on a company / organisation worksheet. Alternatively in the case where you may have, say, 5 different types of jobs that you perform on a regular basis, you can draw them all up and number of the setup that you are about to do in your diary or company / organisation worksheet.

These guidelines have been issued by the Traffic and Access Standards Section, Transport Services Division. For further details relating to these guidelines please contact 8343 2214.