

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Variable message signs**

**Part 2: Portable signs**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee LG-006, Road Traffic Signals. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 10 March 2009. This Standard was published on 10 April 2009.

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The following are represented on Committee LG-006:

- ARRB Group
  - Australian Industry Group
  - AUSTROADS
  - Brisbane City Council
  - CIE Australia Inc.
  - Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, South Australia
  - Hire and Rental Industry Association of Australia
  - IES: The Lighting Society
  - Lighting Council of Australia
  - Main Roads Department, Queensland
  - Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales
  - VicRoads
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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee LG-006, Road Traffic Signals.

This Standard forms Part 2 of the AS 4852 series, which covers requirements for the construction and performance of electrically powered variable message signs based on light-emitting diode technologies in a matrix configuration that are intended to be used for road traffic management. These signs are expected to provide real-time information on the oncoming road in the transportation network.

The objective of this Standard is to specify the requirements for the design and performance of variable message signs.

The series consists of the following Standards:

AS

4852 Variable message signs

4852.1 Part 1: Fixed signs

4852.2 Part 2: Portable signs (this Standard)

The use of any signs, including variable message signs, for road traffic management is subject to regulation by traffic control authorities. Guidance on and requirements relating to their use are provided in the series of Standards AS 1742, *Manual of uniform traffic control devices*.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes (footnotes) to tables (figures) are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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**STANDARDS AUSTRALIA****Australian Standard  
Variable message signs****Part 2: Portable signs****SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL****1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard covers electrically powered, on-road, variable message signs used for traffic management and/or driver information applications. Part 1 of the Standard covers Fixed Signs, where the display is mounted in a permanent position above or adjacent to the roadway. Part 2 of the Standard covers Portable Signs, where the display is mounted and deployed on a re-locatable trailer.

While this Standard is based on systems that use the commonly available emitter, LED (Light Emitting Diodes), as the display source, the general criteria relating to driver observation, sign functionality, and structural and operational integrity of the associated hardware are relevant for other forms of variable message signs. Relevant parts of this Standard can be applied to non-LED variable message signs. The Standard is not intended to exclude the use or development of alternative display sources.

This Standard specifies the requirements for the design, construction, performance and certain aspects of the application of the aforesaid signs, including their associated control systems.

The following types of message signs are not included within the scope of this Standard:

- (a) Destination signs on buses, trains etc.
- (b) Portable variable message signs intended to advertise products and services to road users.
- (c) Portable signs that are only capable of displaying either a single message or a blank face.

Trailer-mounted speed advisory signs shall comply with the optical and environmental requirements set out in this Standard.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

It is intended that variable message signs complying with this Standard be used to provide traffic-related information to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. This includes road safety messages and real-time traffic information relating to incidents, roadworks and travel times.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1742	Manual of uniform traffic control devices
1743	Road signs—Specifications