

# BRITISH WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

Patrons: Kate Hoey MP; Philip Hollobone MP

*Please reply to:*

29 Chart House Road, Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5LS  
www.bwmaOnline.com ~ Email: bwma@email.com

To: Chief Executives of County Councils,  
Metropolitan District Councils,  
London Borough Councils,  
District Councils, and Town  
Councils in England and Wales

15 February 2019

Dear Sir or Madam

## **Pedestrian distance signs - units of measurement**

It has come to our attention that some local councils are using metric units of distance (i.e. the metre and kilometre) for pedestrian signs, usually in town centres, near railway and bus stations, or along sea fronts, etc.

We would like to remind councils that pedestrians are regarded in law as traffic, and signs for pedestrians, as well as cyclists and equestrians, are expressly governed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD) (Schedule 12).

TSRGD (Schedule 18, Part 3) permits only yards and miles as units of distance on signs; please find attached a page from Department for Transport Circular 01/2016 which summarises permitted expressions of distance and their variations. Signs affected include those for local facilities, leisure facilities and tourist destinations, etc.

We hope this letter is of assistance. When metric signs are unlawfully placed, our Association, a non-government organisation that campaigns for the retention of imperial weights and measures, is obliged to see that they are removed. This is both costly and inconvenient. We would much rather non-compliant signage be averted, and hope this letter increases awareness of the law in this area.

Yours faithfully



John Gardner  
Director

**Table 3.1 Permitted expressions of distance**

Description	$\geq 3$ miles	$\geq \frac{1}{2}$ mile & $< 3$ miles	$< \frac{1}{2}$ mile
Supplementary plates to warning and regulatory signs	Whole numbers to the nearest mile followed by "miles"  Used mainly when preceded by "For" or "for"	Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using $\frac{1}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ as appropriate) followed by "miles" or "mile"	Distance to the nearest 10 yards followed by "yards" or "yds"  Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using " $\frac{1}{4}$ mile" or " $\frac{1}{2}$ mile" as appropriate)
Schedules 8 and 11 where a distance may be added or varied	Whole numbers to the nearest mile followed by "miles"	Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using $\frac{1}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ as appropriate) followed by "miles" or "mile"	Distance to the nearest 10 yards followed by "yards" or "yds"  Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using " $\frac{1}{4}$ mile" or " $\frac{1}{2}$ mile" as appropriate)
Distance to junction on map-type, dedicated lane and overhead advance direction signs, and to an exit leading to services	Not applicable	"2", " $1\frac{1}{4}$ ", " $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", " $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", " $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", " $1\frac{1}{4}$ ", "1", " $\frac{3}{4}$ ", " $\frac{1}{2}$ " or " $\frac{1}{4}$ " followed by "m"	" $\frac{1}{2}$ m"
Distance alongside a place name destination (other than advance direction signs on motorways)	Whole numbers to the nearest mile  Note: On a pedestrian sign "m" follows the distance where the sign also includes a distance in yards	Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using $\frac{1}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ as appropriate)  Note: On a pedestrian sign "m" follows the distance where the sign also includes a distance in yards	Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ as appropriate)  Additionally on pedestrian signs:  Distance to the nearest 10 yards followed by "yards" or "yds"; where " $\frac{1}{4}$ " or " $\frac{1}{2}$ " is used on a sign that also includes a distance in yards it is followed by "m"
Distance below a place name destination (other than advance direction signs on motorways)	Whole numbers to the nearest mile followed by "miles"	Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using $\frac{1}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ as appropriate) followed by "miles" or "mile"	Distance to the nearest 10 yards followed by "yards" or "yds"  Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using " $\frac{1}{4}$ mile" or " $\frac{1}{2}$ mile" as appropriate)
Local facility, car park, leisure facility and tourist destination signs	Whole numbers to the nearest mile followed by "miles"  Note: "m" may be used where the sign also includes a distance in yards	Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using $\frac{1}{4}$ , $\frac{1}{2}$ , $\frac{3}{4}$ as appropriate) followed by "miles" or "mile"  Note: "m" may be used where the sign also includes a distance in yards	Distance to the nearest 10 yards followed by "yards" or "yds"  Distance to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (using " $\frac{1}{4}$ mile" or " $\frac{1}{2}$ mile" as appropriate)