

**Subject: RE: [Fwd: Hydroplaning Issues]**

**Date: Tue, 2 Sep 2003 11:28:38 -0400**

**From: "Hibbs, Bradley" <Bradley.Hibbs@fhwa.dot.gov>**

**To: "Larry Stallings" <lstallings@dot.state.nc.us>,  
"David W. Robertson" <d Robertson@dot.state.nc.us>,  
"Susan B. Kunz" <skunz@dot.state.nc.us>**

**CC: "Tate, Joseph" <Joseph.Tate@fhwa.dot.gov>,  
"Lawton, Emily" <Emily.Lawton@fhwa.dot.gov>**

The Slippery When Wet (W8-5) sign is defined by section 2C.25 of the MUTCD as a warning sign that can be used to alert drivers that slippery conditions exist at a specific location or section of the approaching roadway. This sign is optional for use by the transportation agency responsible for the roadway signing, implying engineering judgment should be used to determine when roadway conditions warrant its use. The MUTCD provides guidance that if the sign is used, it should be placed in advance of the affected roadway and also placed at intervals if the slippery road occurs over a long section.

The 1988 version of the MUTCD stated that the W8-5 sign can be used when the roadway experiences "extraordinary" slippery conditions. The 2000 version of the MUTCD states that the W8-5 sign can be used when a slippery condition may exist. No changes will occur to section 2C.25 as a result of Revision 2 to the MUTCD.

The W8-5 sign is the appropriate warning sign for slippery conditions. If a section of roadway, during wet conditions, has consistent occurrences of hydroplaning crashes, then it moves from a signing issue to a maintenance issue (in my opinion). However, if the NCDOT determines that additional signs (beyond the W8-5) are needed to alert motorists about potential slippery conditions, the NCDOT is free to develop a word message on a warning sign (or work zone sign if that is appropriate) to supplement the W8-5. A sign developed for that purpose by the NCDOT should be referenced in the NCDOT supplement to the MUTCD.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Larry Stallings [<mailto:lstallings@dot.state.nc.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2003 9:40 AM  
**To:** Hibbs, Bradley; David W. Robertson; Susan B. Kunz  
**Subject:** [Fwd: Hydroplaning Issues]

<< Message: Hydroplaning Issues >> Brad:

Please read the attached e-mail from Haywood.

Your comments would be appreciated.

We are developing several practices associated with standing water and/or slippery when wet issues.

Thanks!

lms/larry