

ABOUT US



Innovative Road Safety Solutions (IRSS) was formed in 2019 and produces an innovative range of highways products – including the patented ‘CoverMe’ traffic light bagging system which completely eliminates the risks of working at height. IRSS and its product range of road safety solutions which are the brainchild of Peter Hoban – a 26 years highways industry veteran, inventor and entrepreneur.

Peter was a recent finalist in Safer Highways ‘*Big Deal*’ competition, winning a sponsorship with publicly-listed construction group, Morgan Sindall.



Peter Hoban – founder of IRSS



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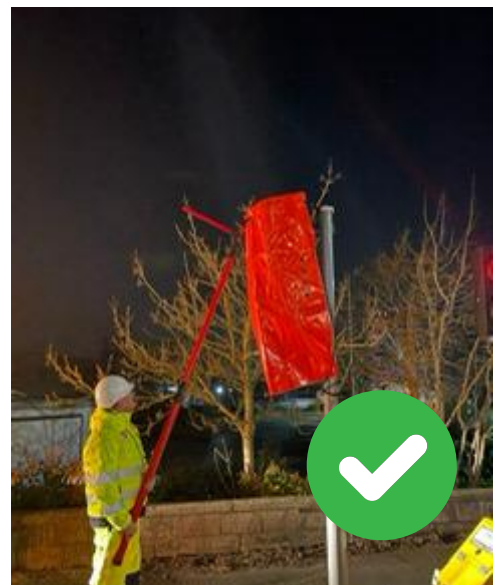
TEMPORARY HIGHWAY PRODUCTS

BEST PRACTICE FOR OUR PRODUCTS



Ensuring road safety during the temporary covering of road signs, beacons, and traffic signals requires stringent safety protocols to prevent accidents and confusion for all road users. These protocols ensure that any modifications to the highway or street infrastructure do not jeopardize safety. Providing clear and effective communication, along with proper guidance, is essential for drivers navigating through construction zones or temporary traffic management systems.

This helps prevent hazardous situations and protects both pedestrians and motorists. Safety on-site is also a top priority for Tier 1 contractors and councils, with a firm commitment to achieving ZERO accidents. Reducing the risks associated with working at height is a crucial aspect of this effort. Moreover, sustainability in the construction industry is gaining importance, with a focus on eliminating single-use plastics. By replacing them with safer, more sustainable alternatives, we contribute not only to safety but also to broader environmental goals.



BEST PRACTICE

Traffic signals

Prioritising the elimination of working at height wherever possible, recognising it as a significant safety risk. Working from height is one of the leading causes of workplace accidents, and to protect our workforce, it is critical to proactively remove this hazard. By identifying opportunities to eliminate or reduce work-at-height tasks, we can significantly enhance safety and prevent potential injuries, ensuring a safer working environment for all involved.





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Switch off

Traffic signals and Belisha beacons should be switched off during temporary works to avoid any confusion.





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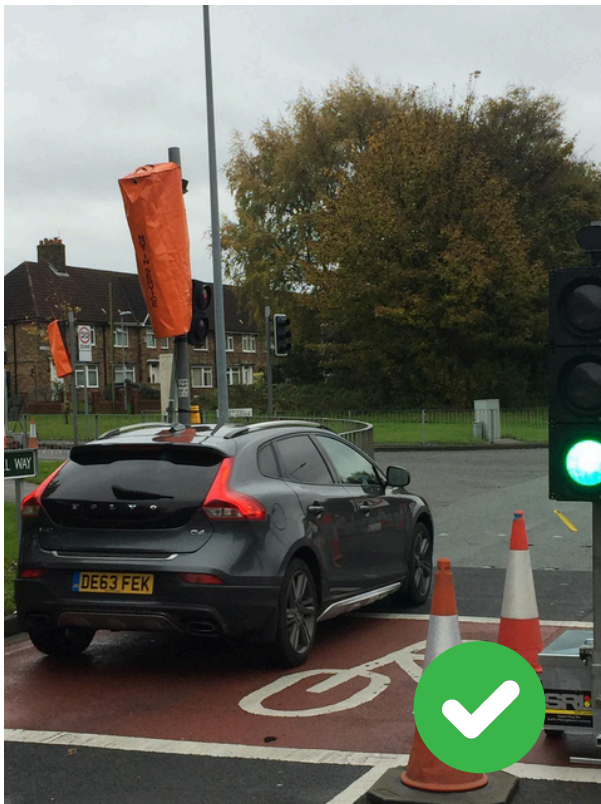
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When to bag off?

Every site should be bagged off if possible to avoid confusion, and keep continuity. You should always seek the relevant regulations and guidance.





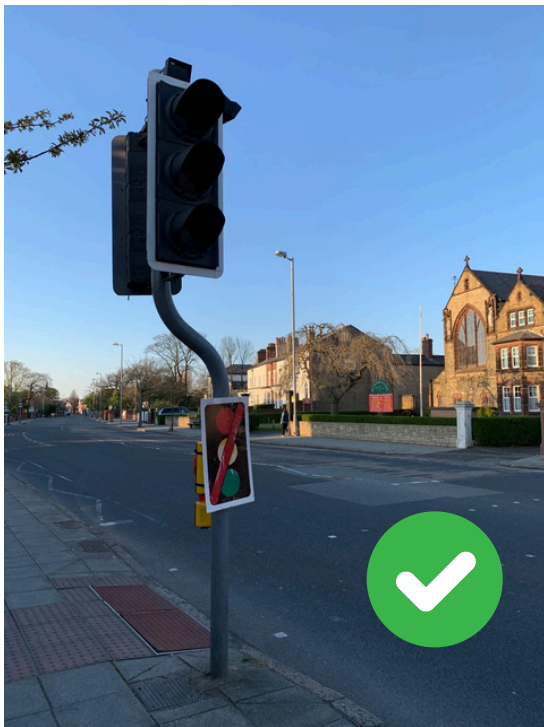
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Sign 7019 can be used in certain situations but for further guidance, always check ARTSM.



BEST PRACTICE



Traffic signals

For some TM schemes permanent signals may require covering (bagging) but with their lit regulatory signs still visible to traffic. In these instances the regulatory sign should remain uncovered. Further guidance can be found in ARTSM guidance for bagging and switching off electrical equipment 2025.



Covered (bagged signals) may require for the regulatory sign to still be visible.



BEST PRACTICE



Confined spaces

Many signal locations are situated at junctions with high pedestrian activity, often with limited space due to the presence of pedestrian guard rails. These areas are frequently occupied by prams, wheelchairs, and pedestrians, making them vulnerable to hazards. In such locations, it is crucial to eliminate the use of ladders to ensure the safety and accessibility of all individuals, especially those with mobility impairments. By avoiding the need for ladders, we reduce the risk of obstructing pedestrian pathways and ensure that these spaces remain safe and navigable for everyone, promoting a safer environment for all road users.



BEST PRACTICE



Poles and Barrels

To eliminate these risks entirely, using 'CoverMe' bags is a safer alternative. Since these bags do not require ladders, they remove the potential hazards associated with unstable support, offering a safer and more reliable solution for protecting street furniture during temporary works.





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Reducing time on site

Minimizing their time on-site not only enhances operational efficiency but also reduces exposure to potential risks. The faster the bagging process is completed, the quicker the operative can leave the site, lowering their risk of accidents and improving overall safety. By streamlining these tasks, we ensure that operatives can complete their work effectively and return to safety, while also minimising disruptions to the surrounding area.

Example

Traffic signals using ladders around 3 minutes and 30 seconds

Traffic signals using CoverMe around 20 - 30 seconds





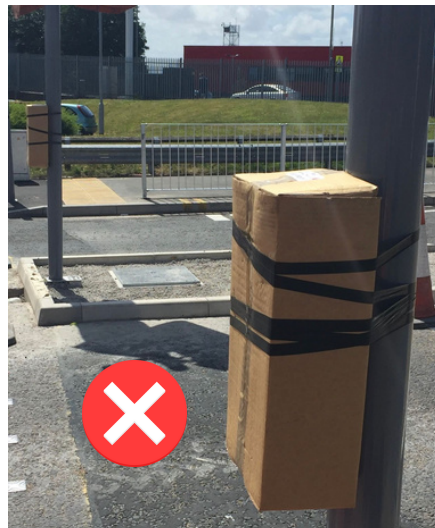
BEST PRACTICE



Assessing weather conditions

Assessing weather conditions is critical when covering street furniture to ensure safety and effectiveness. The materials used play a significant role in how well these coverings withstand various weather conditions. While cardboard or correx sheeting may be suitable for short-term schemes, they may not offer sufficient durability for long-term use, especially under challenging conditions.

To enhance safety, it's essential to evaluate factors such as wind speed, ground surface (ice/snow), and visibility before selecting materials. Using more robust, weather-resistant materials ensures that coverings remain secure and visible throughout the duration of the scheme, preventing potential hazards such as obscured signage or unsecured coverings. By choosing stronger, more reliable materials, we significantly reduce the risk of accidents and ensure that both pedestrians and motorists are protected at all times.



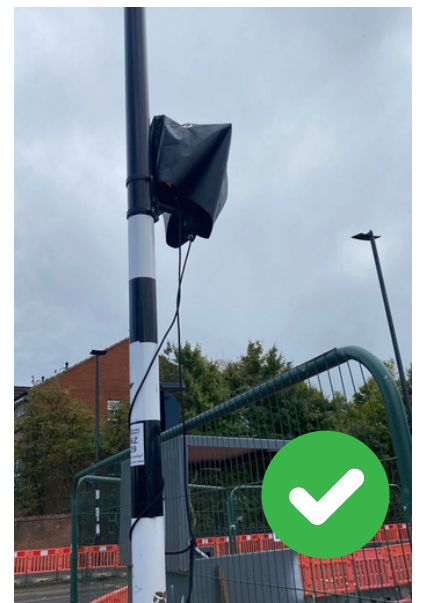


BEST PRACTICE



Best practices for risk management in temporarily covering road signs, beacons and traffic signals.

In managing risks associated with temporarily covering road signs, beacons and traffic signals it is crucial to conduct thorough risk assessments and implement appropriate safety measures. This involves ensuring clear communication with road users and emergency services and establishing precise timelines for both the application and removal of covers to minimize confusion and maintain traffic flow.





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BEST PRACTICE - road signs



CoverMe offers a superior solution for covering street furniture. CoverMe can be installed from ground level in seconds, eliminating the need for ladders and reducing the risk of falls. Its lightweight, durable design ensures reliable coverage without the safety hazards associated with climbing or handling bulky materials.





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Interchangeable sign face



Using CoverMe interchangeable signs significantly improves safety on high-speed roads by allowing signs to be quickly blanked off and replaced with a new speed limit in seconds. This streamlined process eliminates the need for ladders, reducing the risk of accidents and falls, especially in high-risk environments like fast-moving traffic areas.

The simplicity and speed of installation ensure that road workers are on-site for the shortest time possible, minimizing their exposure to potential hazards while maintaining clear and accurate speed limit information for drivers. With CoverMe, we prioritize the safety of both workers and road users, creating a safer, more efficient traffic management solution.



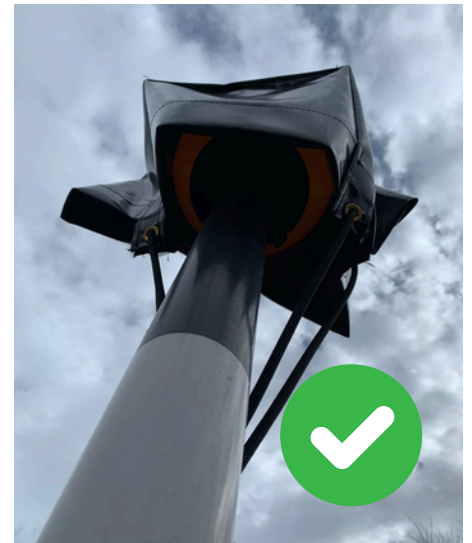
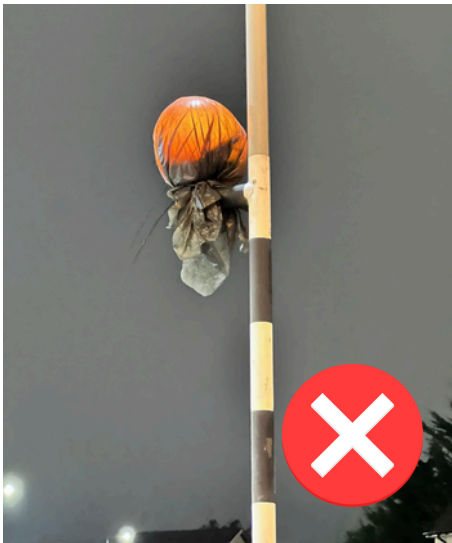
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TEMPORARY HIGHWAY PRODUCTS

BEST PRACTICE - Belisha beacons



CoverMe offers a safer, more efficient way to cover Belisha beacons at zebra crossings. The Belisha beacon version is installed from ground level in seconds, eliminating the need for ladders and reducing the risk of accidents. This streamlined process ensures workers spend minimal time in high-risk areas, enhancing overall safety.





BEST PRACTICE



Push Buttons

When traffic signals are turned off, it is crucial to also disable the associated push buttons to prevent Bluetooth devices from transmitting messages to pedestrians, particularly those who are visually impaired or blind. To safeguard these individuals, the push button should be completely covered with a black, opaque material, clearly marked with the words "Out of Service." This ensures that visually impaired pedestrians do not receive misleading signals or instructions, preventing potential confusion and reducing the risk of accidents. By properly covering and labelling push buttons, we prioritise the safety and accessibility of all pedestrians.



BEST PRACTICE



Bus stop



Example of good practice - Information clearly explaining that the bus stop is closed.



Take That Concert, UK



“When delivering complex stadium and counter terrorism transport plans in congested residential areas, we are very conscious to reduce impact on those affected.

There is a clear public safety and counter-terrorism need to close the road for when crowds are leaving but we need to keep the closure periods to a minimum.

With the added issue of a traffic signal level crossing in one of our crucial junctions, using the CoverMe bag system allows the signals to be taken out of service in under 2 minutes whilst enabling the signals for the level crossing to remain live. This could not have been achieved any other way.

Without the speed of the CoverMe bag solution, the road closure would have been longer lasting and more disruptive and cost the event organiser also more in delivery of the transport plan.”

-Sophie Merivale, Senior Operations Manager at The Traffic Management company.

What our customers are saying

"Having worked on the railway for 15 years We have only ever used bin bags or shrink-wrap to cover signage but thanks to the power of social media I have finally found a supplier who can meet our needs on the infrastructure."

Made from recycled materials, easy to install, avoids working at height risks/costs, and reusable, what a great product!"

Siemens Mobility Limited, Carl Miller, Engineer.



"We chose the Cover-Me bags for their ease to use and making the process of bagging off signals much safer by elimination of ladder use."

This allowed us to use operatives from the wider highways pool as there was no requirement for ladder training. In addition to this, eliminating the use of ladders was paramount due to the confined spaces."

Chris Pearson, Blackburn Council.



Contact us

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