



Figure. ZimRoadWise crest: a shield containing a stylised road curving toward the horizon, with the ZimRoadWise wordmark set beneath in navy. Cover mark of the ZimRoadWise study library.

OFFICIAL STUDY RESOURCE

Road Signs Quick Reference

Recognise every sign by shape first, colour second, glyph third.

First Edition · 2026

Aligned with the Zimbabwe Highway Code and VID learner examination.

Accessible edition · Screen-reader friendly · Tagged headings · Described images.

Contents

Contents	2
Part 1 • How to Read a Sign	3
Read shape first	3
Then colour	3
Part 2 • Regulatory Signs	4
Prohibitions — round, red ring	4
Mandatory — round, solid blue	4
Part 3 • Warning Signs	5
Part 4 • Information & Guidance	6
Part 5 • Road Markings	7
Line colours	7
Line patterns	7

Part 1 • How to Read a Sign

Zimbabwean road signs follow the SADC standard. Shape and colour do most of the communication — the picture is only the detail.

Read shape first

- Octagon — STOP. The only octagonal sign on the road.
- Triangle point up — WARNING of a hazard ahead.
- Triangle point down — YIELD. Give way.
- Circle — a REGULATION you must obey.
- Rectangle — INFORMATION or guidance.
- Diamond — TEMPORARY hazard, usually at roadworks.

Then colour

- Red border or fill: prohibition or immediate danger.
- Blue fill: mandatory action.
- Yellow: caution, temporary.
- Green: highway direction.
- White: general information.

Part 2 · Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs carry the force of law. Ignoring one is an offence.

Prohibitions — round, red ring

- No Entry · red circle with white bar.
- No Overtaking · two cars, red one on the left.
- No U-Turn · curved arrow with a bar.
- No Parking · blue with a single red diagonal.
- No Stopping · blue with a red cross.

Mandatory — round, solid blue

- Turn Left / Right Ahead · white arrow on blue.
- Keep Left · downward arrow to the left.
- Roundabout · three curved arrows.
- Pedestrians Only · walking figure.

Part 3 · Warning Signs

Warning signs appear about 150 m before the hazard on rural roads and closer to it in built-up areas.

- Sharp Curve Left / Right · single bend arrow.
- Winding Road · two opposing bends.
- T-Junction, Y-Junction, Crossroads · junction glyphs.
- Pedestrian Crossing · adult and child figures.
- Cattle · silhouette of a cow.
- Slippery Road · car with wavy tyre tracks.
- Steep Descent · gradient percentage.

Part 4 · Information & Guidance

- Hospital · white H on blue.
- Fuel · pump silhouette on blue.
- Parking · white P on blue.
- One-Way Traffic · long white arrow on blue.
- Direction & Distance · green with kilometres.
- Street Name · white with black text.

Part 5 • Road Markings

Line colours

- White — separates traffic moving in the same direction.
- Yellow — marks the edge of the carriageway or a no-stopping zone.
- Red — bus and emergency routes.

Line patterns

- Broken line — crossing permitted when safe.
- Solid line — do not cross or straddle.
- Double solid — absolute prohibition.
- Mixed (solid + broken) — you may cross only from the broken side.