

APPENDIX D

INTERNATIONAL MARKINGS AND ROAD SIGNS

Army personnel who are stationed or who travel in overseas areas should be familiar with the standardized vehicle markings and road signs prescribed by NATO and the Geneva Convention. This appendix discusses these markings and signs in detail and provides corresponding illustrations.

NATO MILITARY VEHICLE MARKINGS

NATO armed forces have agreed to use standard markings for vehicles. These markings are not necessarily used at all times but, when used, should conform to the guidelines below. The rear of a trailer is marked in the same manner as its prime mover; there is no need to mark the front of a trailer. If necessary for security reasons, vehicle markings may be covered or removed when directed by the field commander or his superior authority. Standard NATO markings include:

- Registration numbers – numbers or a combination of letters and numbers, as required by the nation concerned.
- National symbols – shown, at a minimum, front and rear to identify each country's vehicles. Service symbols may be superimposed on national symbols or appear separately.
- Speed limits – placed on vehicles as directed by the nation concerned.
- Tactical markings – stripes and geometrical figures, sometimes with a name, for identification within units. Markings should be large enough to make ground-to-ground identification of vehicles possible; colors may be used. The design and position of these markings are prescribed by the field commander for easy battlefield recognition.

They are removed when vehicles are permanently released from the jurisdiction of the commander prescribing their use.

- Ground-to-air recognition markings – red and yellow fluorescent panels, approximately 6 feet by 2 feet 3 inches (1.80 meters by 0.68 meters), equipped with tie cords. Panels are draped on vehicles in a standard, unchanging pattern that differs from displays prescribed for other recognition purposes (front lines, targets, and so forth). Theater commanders prescribe the arrangement of panels and conditions under which they will be used.
- Special-purpose vehicle identification:
 - Military police and other traffic control vehicles – prescribed markings placed front and rear.
 - Ambulances and other vehicles used exclusively for medical purposes – marked according to Geneva convention rules with a red cross or crescent on a square or round white background painted on side body panels, body roof, cab roof, and rear doors or panel.
 - Bomb disposal unit vehicles – will be marked IAW existing national regulations and international agreements (i.e., in Western Europe these vehicles must have all mud guards painted red).

- Red flag – indicates danger.
- Priority-vehicle markings – equilateral triangles with red borders and symbols on white backgrounds placed on the front and rear of a vehicle. The commander may mark any vehicle that has priority over all other vehicles. Examples of priority vehicles are those carrying special liaison officers, priority dispatches, and damage-assessment personnel. A single priority sign may be used if visible from both front and rear. The sign should be as large as the vehicle's dimensions permit. The symbol inside the triangle identifies the authorizing commander. Priority signs must be removable to avoid misuse. They are used only on direct orders of the commander concerned. See Figure D-1 for an example of a vehicle priority sign.

GENEVA CONVENTION ROAD SIGNS

The Geneva Convention road signs discussed here were agreed to at the United States Conference on Road and Motor Transport in 1949. Although not military, these signs should be familiar to Army personnel who will encounter them overseas.

Dimensions of the signs are standardized in each country for uniformity. In general, there are two sizes for each type of sign – standard and reduced. The reduced size is used where conditions preclude, or safety does not require, the standard size. In exceptional cases, a small sign may be used in built-up areas or to repeat the main sign.

Danger Signs (Class I)

Danger signs are red bordered equilateral triangles with black or dark-colored symbols on white or yellow backgrounds. The triangles point upward except the “priority road ahead” sign, which points downward. The length of each standard side is not less than 0.9 meters (35.4 inches); of each reduced side, not less than 0.6 meters (23.6 inches). Overall height of signs is not more than 2.2 meters (86.6 inches) above ground. Away from built-up areas, signs are placed not less than 0.6 meters (23.6 inches) above ground. Signs are placed to be clearly visible without impeding pedestrians. See Figure D-2, page D-3, for examples of Class I signs.

Instructional Signs (Class II)

There are two types of instructional signs – prohibitory (Class II A) and mandatory (Class II B). Class II A signs are red-bordered circles with black or dark-colored symbols on a white or yellow background. Class II B signs are blue circles with white symbols. Standard size is at least 0.6 meters (23.6 inches) in diameter; reduced size, 0.4 meters (15.7 inches). Bottom of sign must be at least 0.6 meters (23.6 inches) above ground; top of sign must not be more than 2.2 meters (86.6 inches) above ground. Signs are placed close to the point where the requirement starts and at intervals along the route. See Figure D-3, page D-4 for examples of Class II signs.

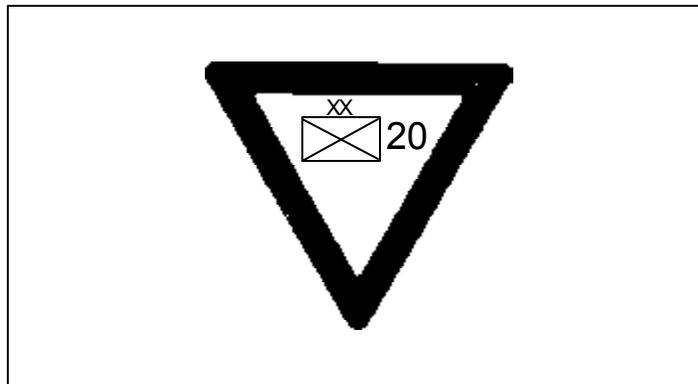


Figure D-1. NATO vehicle priority sign

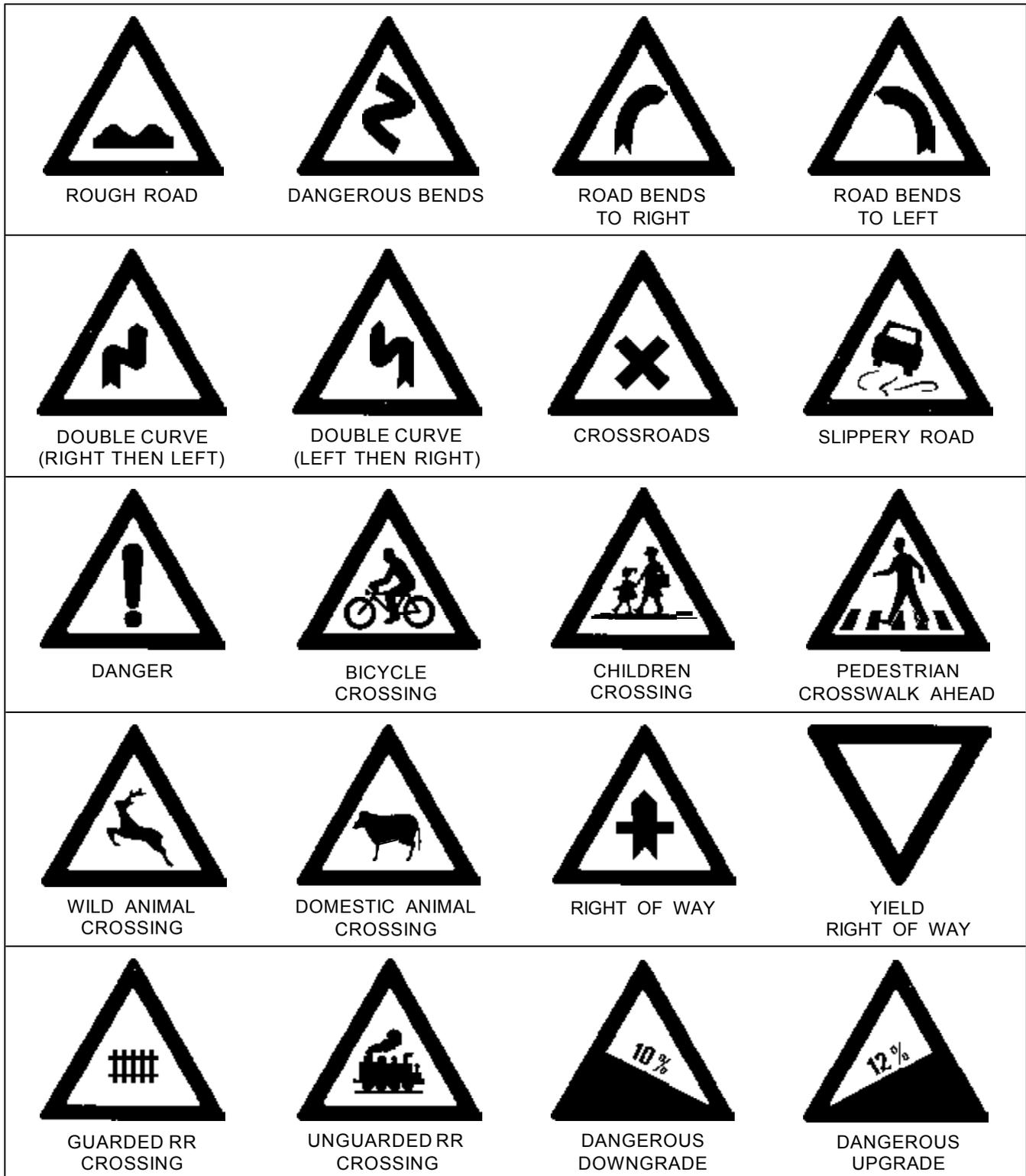


Figure D-2. Class I (danger) signs – Geneva Convention

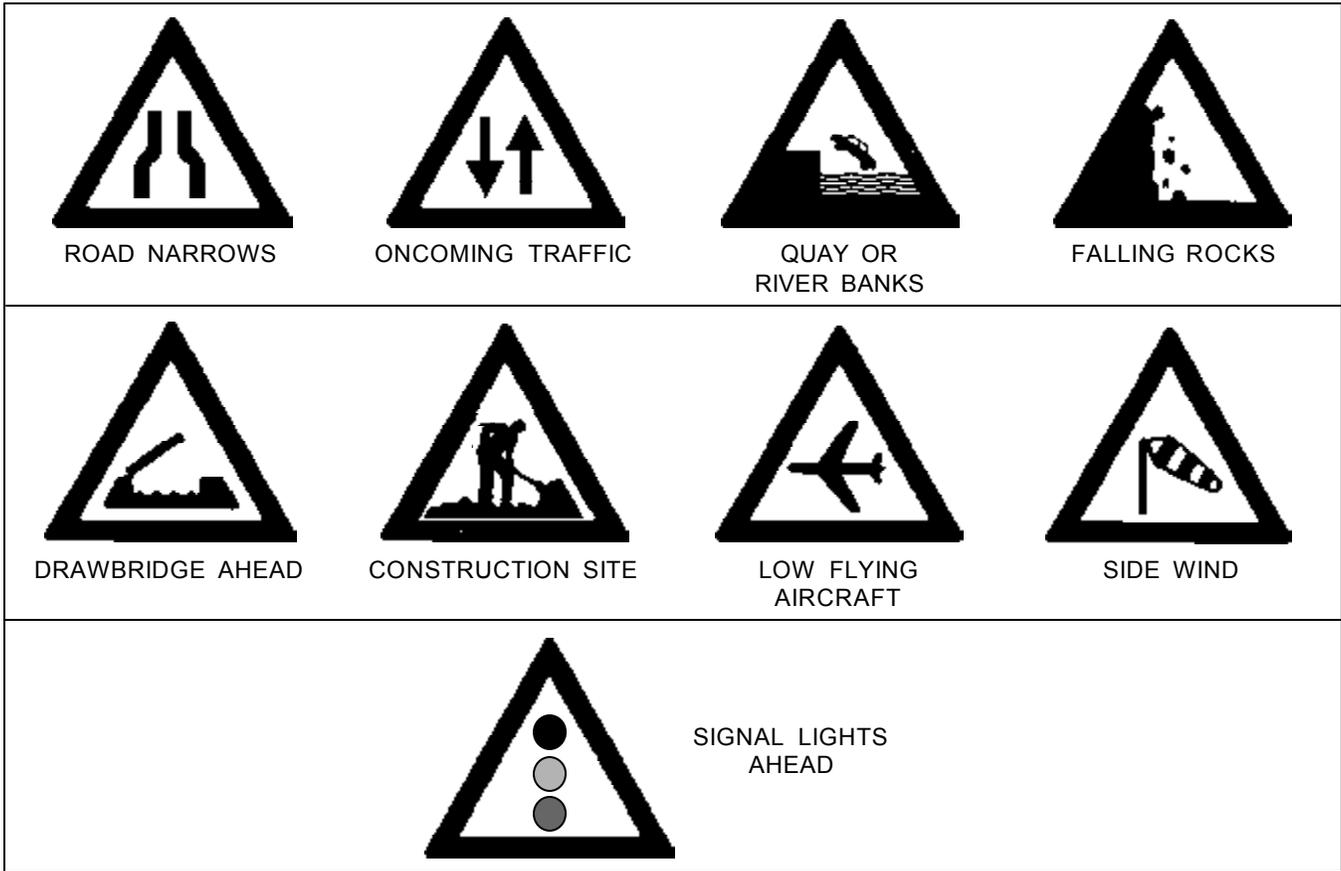


Figure D-2. Class I (danger) signs – Geneva Convention (continued)

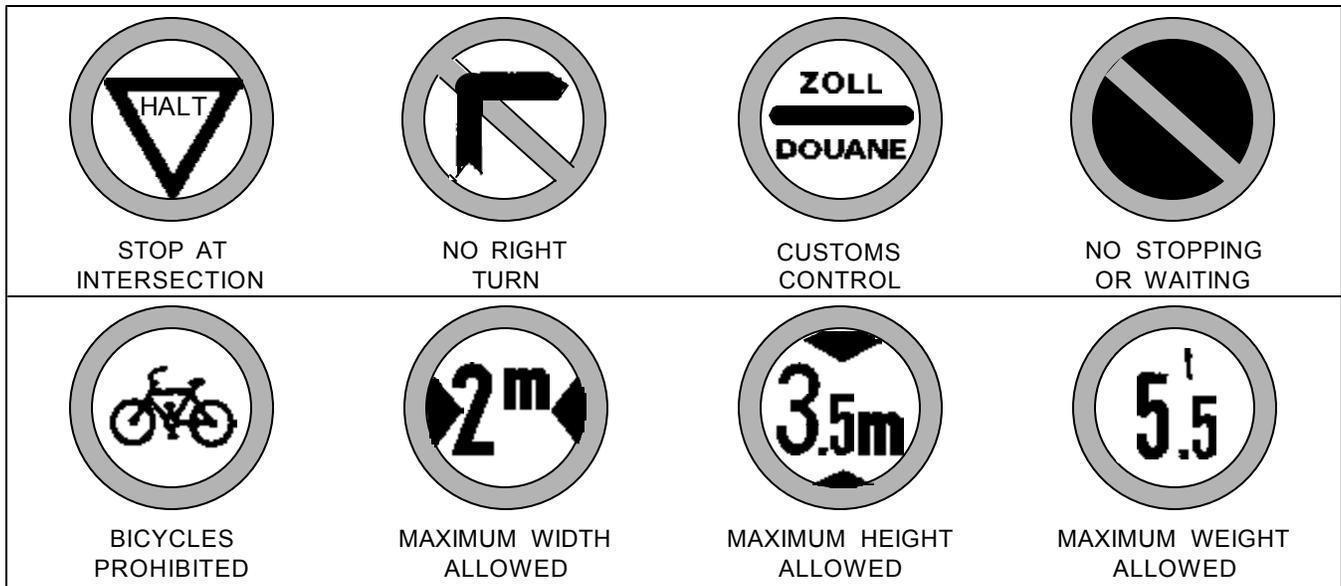


Figure D-3. Class II (instructional) signs—Geneva Convention

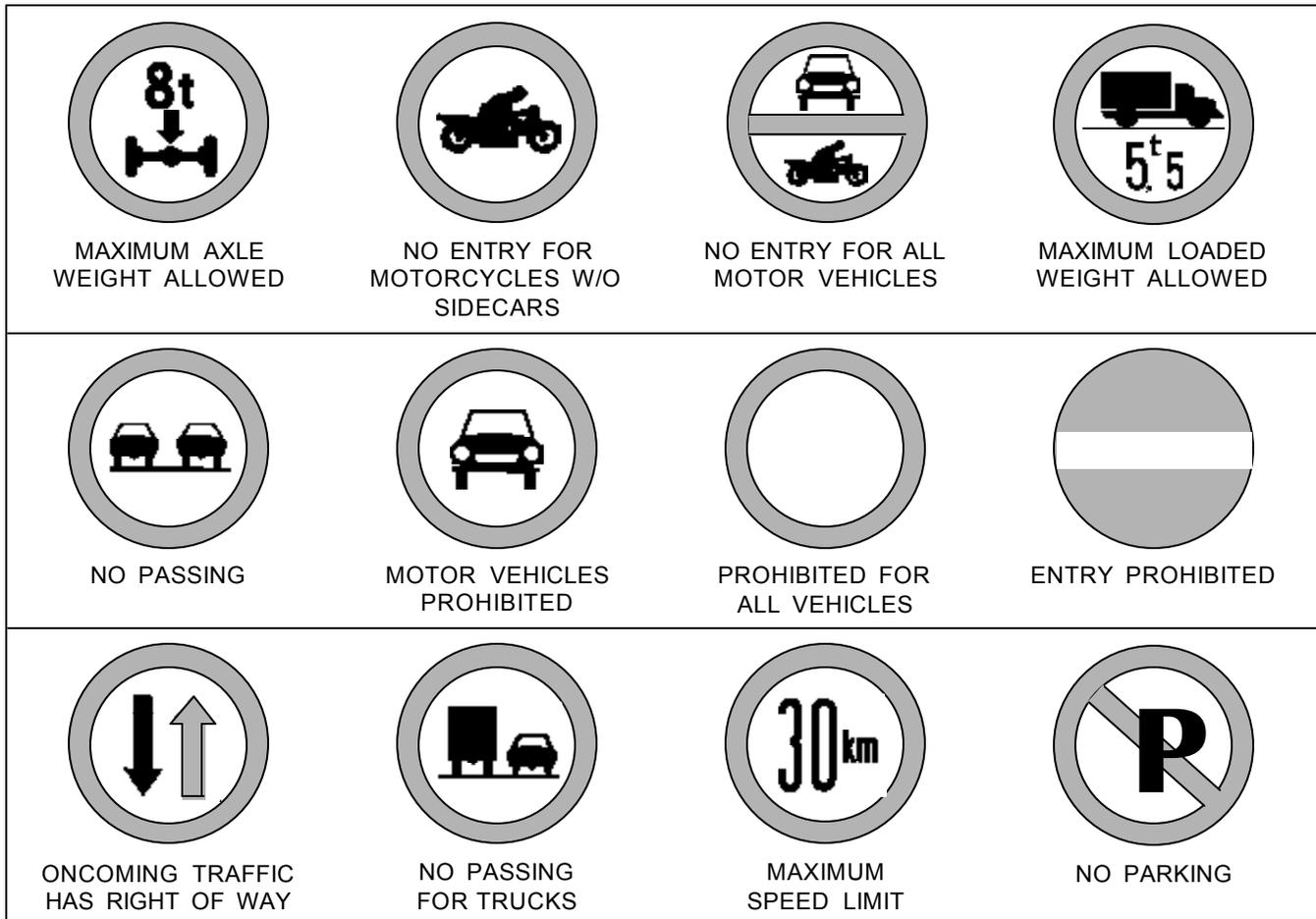


Figure D-3. Class II (instructional) signs—Geneva Convention (continued)

Informational Signs (Class III)

There are three types of informational signs – indication (Class III A), direction and advance direction (Class III B), and place identification (Class III C). Signs are usually rectangular. Colors may or may not be specified. If they are not specified, red may be used but is not the dominant color. See Figure D-4, page D-6, for examples of Class III signs.

Class III A. These signs are blue rectangles with variously colored symbols, except for priority-road signs. Priority-road signs are diamond-shaped, either white with black rims or yellow with dark rims. Standard size is at least 0.6 meters (23.6 inches) square; reduced size, 0.4 meters (15.7 inches). If signs are repeated within built-up areas, square size is 0.25

meters (9.8 inches). Class III A signs indicate parking, hospitals, first aid stations, telephones, service stations, and priority roads.

Class III B. These rectangular signs have either light backgrounds with dark symbols or dark backgrounds with light symbols. They are large enough to be easily understood by drivers in time for them to comply. Advance direction signs are placed from 100 to 250 meters (328 to 820 feet) from the intersection on normal roads. On special roads, such as concrete multilane roads, the distance is increased to 500 meters (1,640 feet). Direction signs are rectangular; the longer side is horizontal and ends in an arrowhead. Names of places lying in the

direction of the arrow may be added to the sign. Figures indicating distances, if given, are inscribed between the name of the place and the arrowhead.

Class III C. These rectangular signs have light backgrounds with dark symbols or dark backgrounds with

light symbols. The 40 signs are placed with the long side horizontal. Their size and location are adequate for nighttime visibility. Class III C signs are placed before the beginning of built-up areas and at other points necessary to indicate place locations.

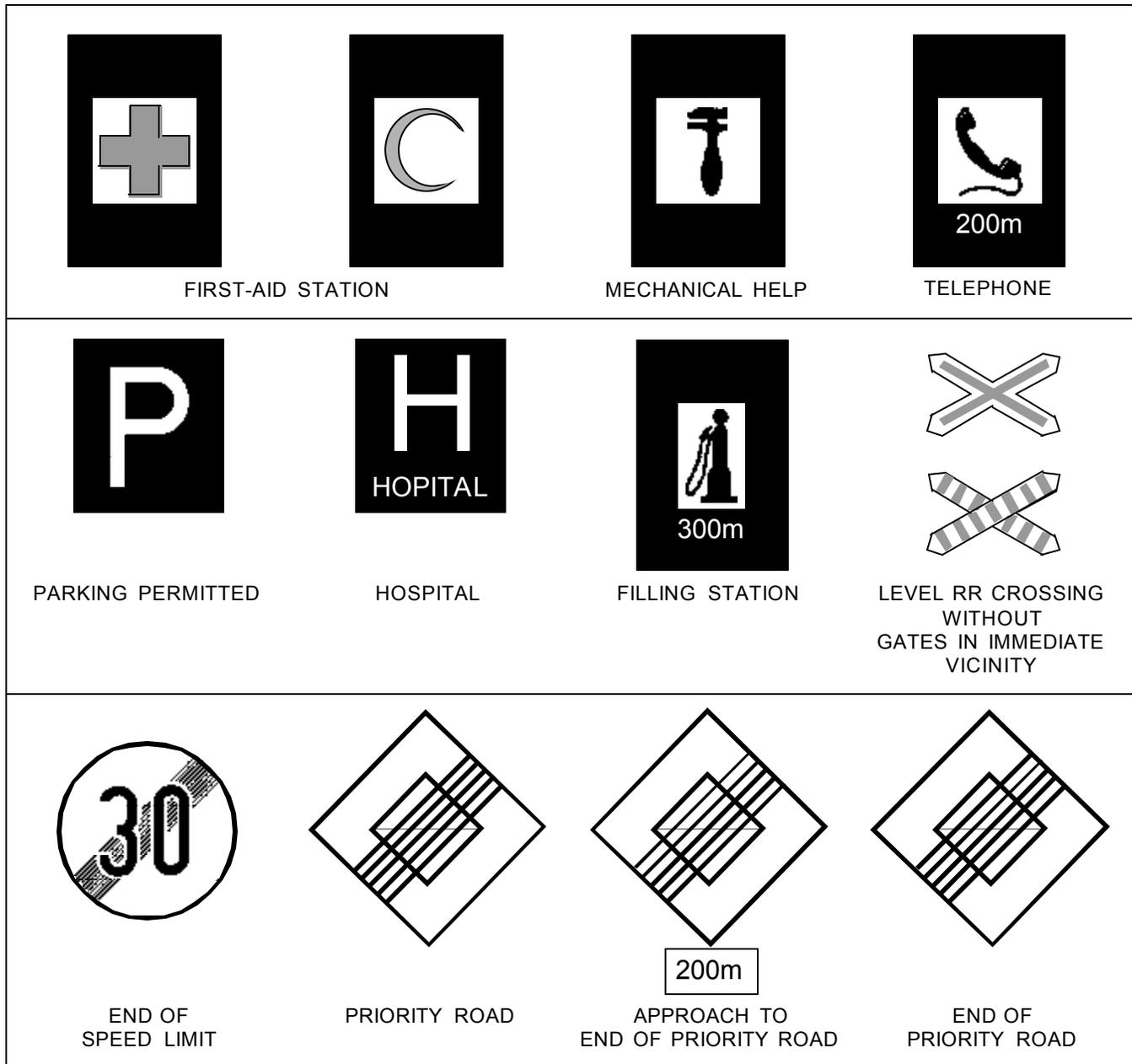


Figure D-4. Class III (informational signs)—Geneva Convention

NATO ROAD SIGNS

To aid the movement of NATO forces in any territory controlled by operational military command or national authority, governments belonging to NATO have adopted a standard system of military route signs. This system includes the signs prescribed by the Geneva Convention as well as others. There are three types of NATO road signs: regulatory, hazard, and guide signs.

Regulatory Signs

These square-shaped signs are black with white symbols except for bridge classification, stop signs, and signs of various shapes, used by the military to control civilians under specified conditions. Regulatory signs are used to regulate and control traffic and to define the light line. See STANAG 2174, Annex B for descriptions of regulatory signs.

Hazard Signs

These triangular-shaped signs are white with black symbols. Hazard signs indicate traffic hazards (i.e., dangerous corners, steep hills, or crossroads) and are used only in areas under military authority. A purely military sign not included in the international (Geneva convention) system or host country's system has a white background with the legend or symbol in black. In the communication and rear combat zones, military hazard signs should only be used IAW existing agreements with national authorities, and only under very exceptional circumstances.

Guide Signs

These signs indicate locations, distances, directions, routes, and similar information. These signs are described as follows:

- Route guide signs are rectangular with white symbols on black backgrounds. Signs are placed with the long side vertical. Odd numbers indicate axial routes; even numbers, lateral routes.
 - Casualty evacuation route guide signs are either rectangular or cross-shaped with red symbols on white backgrounds.
 - Detour signs are diamond-shaped with a black arrow (barred or not) on a white background.
 - Directional disks are circular, less than 0.30 meters (16 inches) in diameter, with a black arrow (barred or not) on a white background. Eight equally spaced holes around its circumference allow the disk to be nailed with the arrow pointing in any direction. Directional disks supplement other guide signs or major unit signs to indicate route direction. Battalions and lower units are not permitted to install directional disks.
- See Figure D-5 for examples of standard NATO road signs.

NATO WARNING SIGNS

Roads and areas within NATO nations containing contamination, minefields, booby traps, or unexploded bombs are marked with triangular signs IAW STANAG 2002. See Figure D-6, page D-8, for examples.

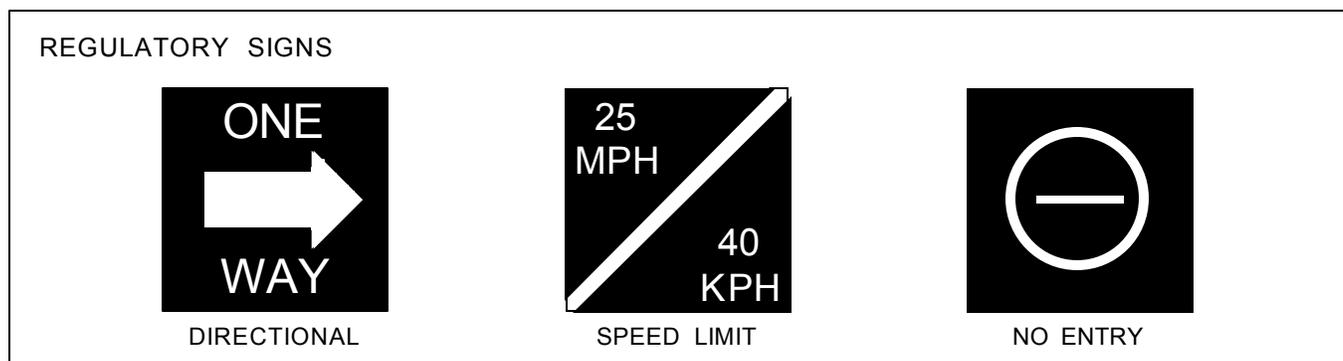


Figure D-5. Standard NATO road signs

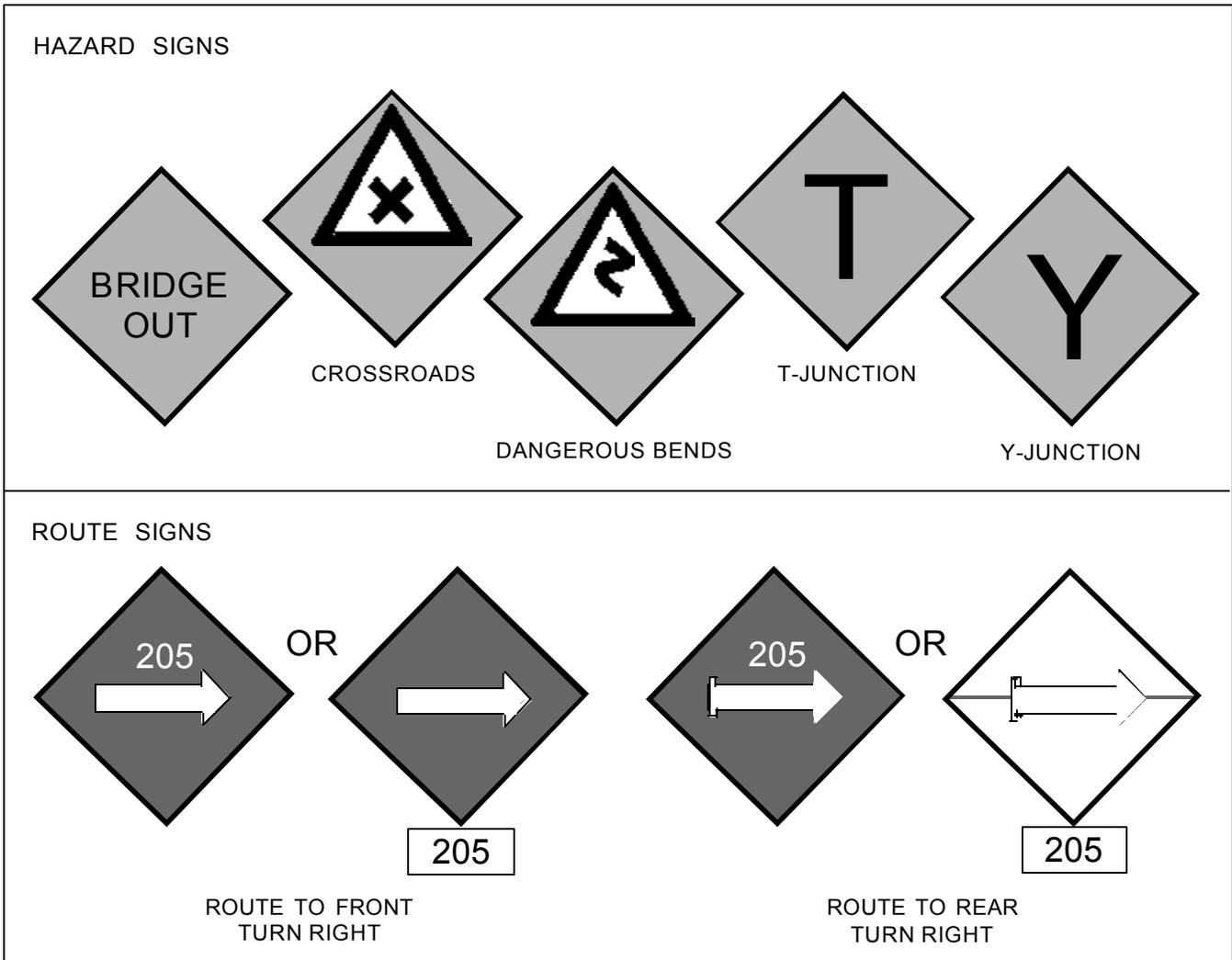


Figure D-5. Standard NATO road signs (continued)

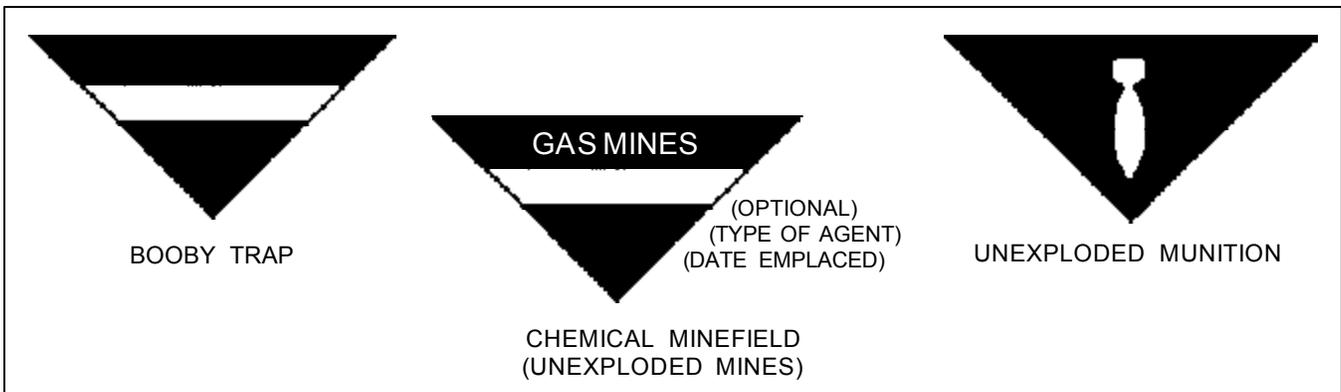


Figure D-6. NATO contaminated dangerous land area signs