

Optimising Line removal

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The revision of pavement marking layouts requires the removal of existing markings and the re-application of markings at the revised location and pattern.

The NZ Roadmarkers Federation (NZRF) Line Removal Guide prepared in 2011 and revised in 2017 is aimed at providing a general description of the more common line removal methods, with a simplified method for the selection of an appropriate removal system for different marking types on particular pavement substrates. Effective line removal is a compromise between leaving “residual markings” creating “ghost markings” and causing damage to the pavement.

The risk of and the degree of damage to the pavement increases exponentially as the degree of removal increases, as does the risk of creating “ghost markings”.

Removal to recommended standards such that damage to the pavement is minimised requires trained operators working with care and attention to detail.

To validate the information in the Guide the NZRF has worked with students from the Engineering School at The University of Auckland over the past three years to trial the effectiveness of various removal methods for different marking systems.

The research also developed pictorial standards such that the residual markings are not visible to drivers at specified preview distances.