

**Ambiguous information on
“beginning and end”
in parking prohibitions
and solution proposals**

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Part 1, upward arrow: basic principle of the Convention

Countries using “upward” or “downward” arrows to indicate “onward” and “backward” face the ambiguity of this message.

According to the general use of an upward arrow to signify “forward” H4c shall be used to announce that the area of restriction is in front of a viewer, beginning behind the sign.

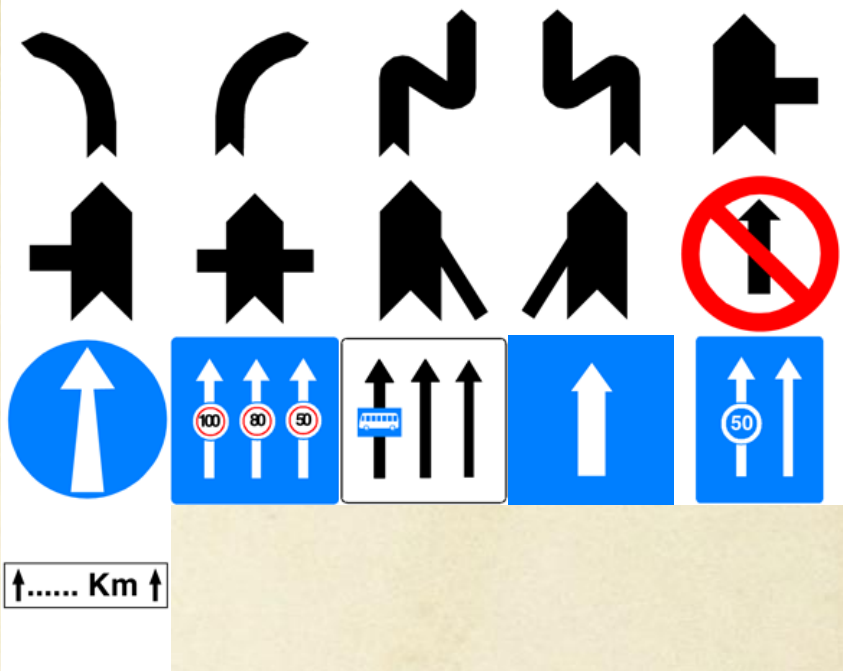
Yet, in VC, against its own principles, H4a (downward) should be used to start a parking prohibition” (sec C, 9., iv) and vice versa.



Upward arrow: basic principle

Upward arrow to mean “forward” or “ahead” is easily comprehended, as it reflects the predominant use of this arrow in the VC (diagrammatic use).

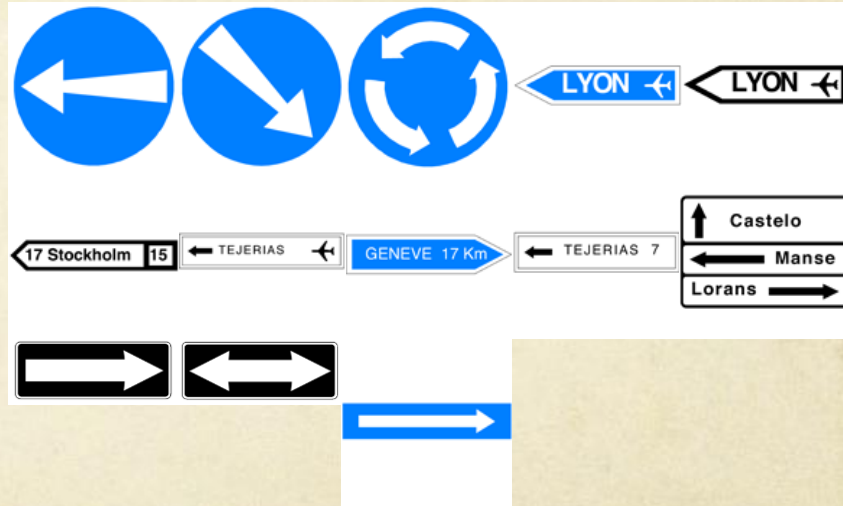
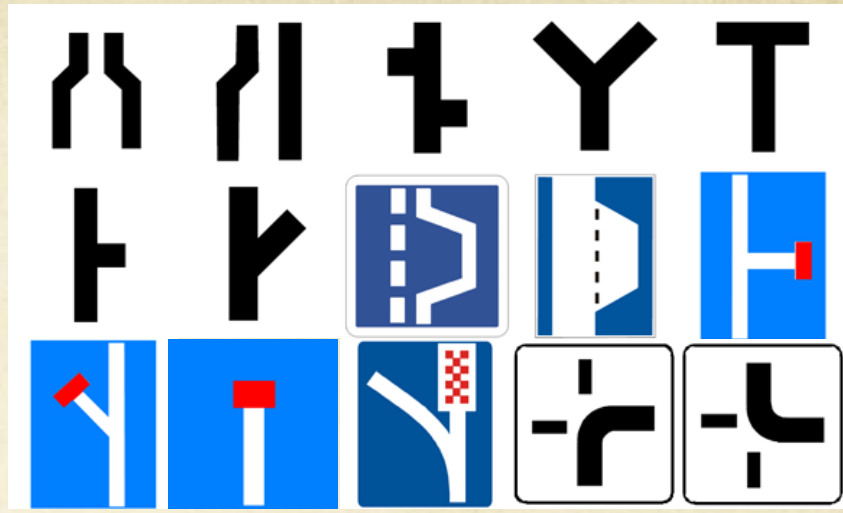
Arrows to show deviations from the forward motion require a vertical stem that at the bottom (beginning) indicates the forward direction by referencing the upward arrow.



Upward arrow: basic principle

Signs & symbols also reflect the “upward is forward” paradigm, even if no such arrowhead is present.

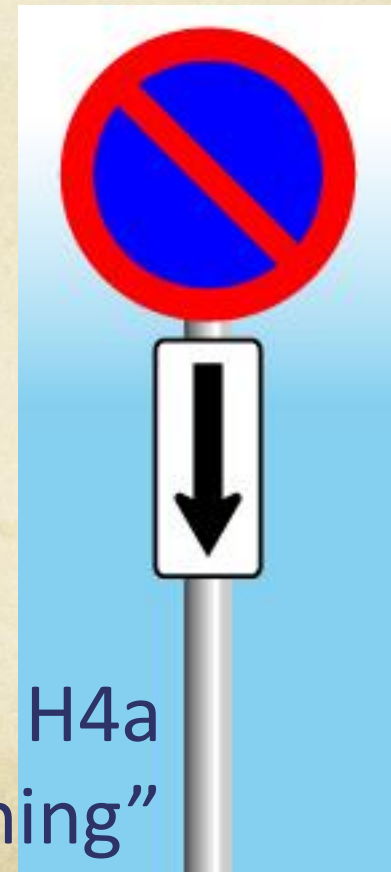
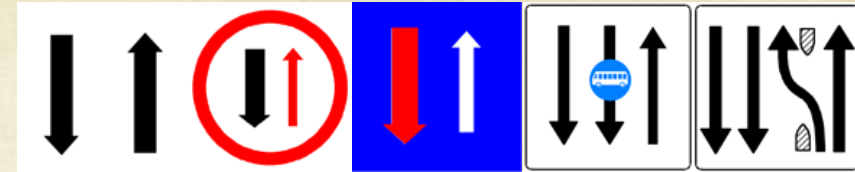
Only at the very moment where immediate change from forward motion is required, an arrow not obeying this rule is used - but NEVER for opposite (or backward) direction or movement.



Upward arrow: basic principle

The VC never (exception: H4a) uses downward arrows to signify a direction or motion against movement/direction without another “upward is forward” arrow to explain “backward” or “oncoming” by relation.

Accordingly, a single downward arrow is not a well known concept, creating confusion.



VC, H4a
“beginning”

Improving understanding

This ambiguity effects correct understanding. For improvement, logic of the VC can be employed—

using the concept of the termination (not alteration) of a direction/movement, resulting in a new symbol “TS2900”.



Improving understanding of “end”

In TS2900, the movement/direction is forward, and terminates in the horizontal block as in other road signs.



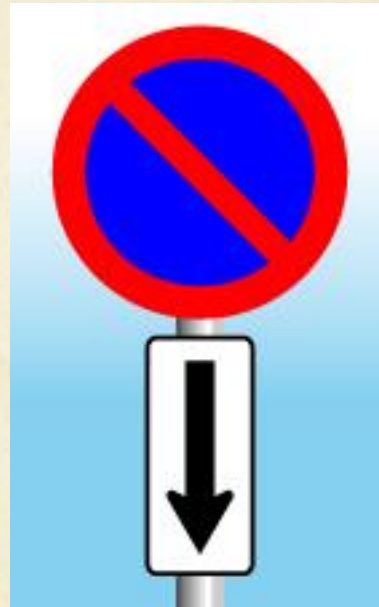
“end”
TS2900

Surveys on understanding of “No-Parking Area”

Q1: Does this indicate the beginning or end of a no parking area? (100 responses each).



New 67 of 100:
“End”
(19 Countries)



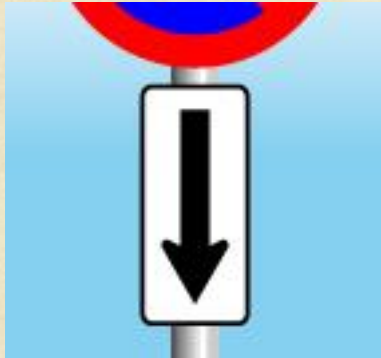
VC 71 of 100:
“Beginning”
(30 Countries)



VC 84 of 100:
“Beginning”
(35 Countries)

Understanding of “No-Parking Area”: Conclusions

A vertical arrow, pointing up or downward is interpreted as “beginning”, but “upward” to a 13% higher rate.



71 of 100

“Beginning”

84 of 100



Only TS2900 was understood sufficiently as “end” (38% resp. 51% higher)

“End”: 67 of 100

Surveys on understanding of “No-Parking Area”

Q1: Does the image show the beginning or the end of a no parking area?

Q2: Do you own a driving license?

Q3: How many years of driving experience do you have?

Q4: How long do you drive per day on average?

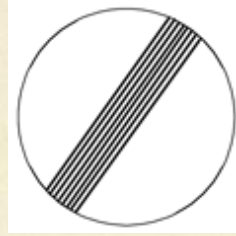
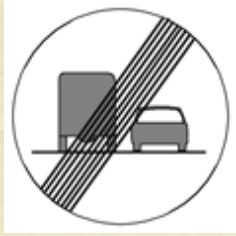
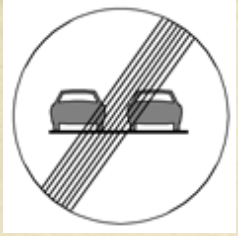
Q5: In what country do you live?

Q6: What is your age?

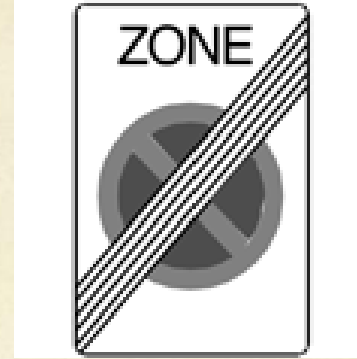
Q7: your gender?

Study report available [here](#) (Download)

Part 2: Enough of arrows – An alternative ending

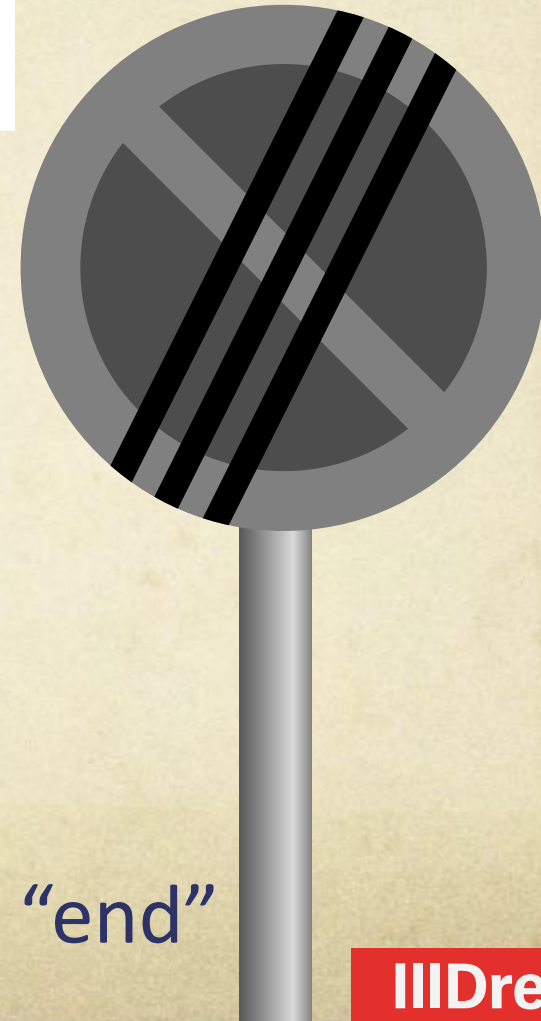


“C”



“E”

Since the C-section provides means to end a prohibition or restriction by converting to grey and using the end-of band, which is coherently used in the E-section too, this pre-existing logic can be transferred to the end of a no parking area.



“end”

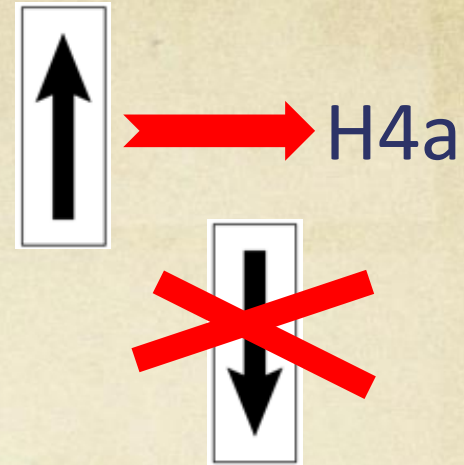
An alternative ending

Signs set perpendicular to a road's direction could signal the beginning of a no parking area, while a no parking sign altered to the principles of "end-of" would terminate it. This would decrease the amount of additional plates in very cluttered urban areas, and make upward and downward arrows obsolete. Also applicable to "end of standing and parking prohibited"



Conclusions

- 1) Switch application of H4a to common Convention use: arrow up = “beginning”, omit downward arrow



- 2) Adopt TS2900 for “end” to avoid ambiguous downward arrow



- 1) Introduce “end of parking prohibition” according to regular Convention use (“grey C18” & “grey C19”)



Thank you!

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