

Glossary of traffic counter terms

AA DT = Annual Average Daily Traffic calculated using data from the 7 day week

Channel (CH) = the direction of flow of the traffic. Traffic at each site is normally counted in two channels, each channel representing a direction of flow. An exception to this is where there is only one way traffic flow, in which case the non-existent second channel will be marked "N/A"

5 day flow = weekdays Monday - Friday inclusive

24 hour 7 day flow = average daily traffic flow over a 7 day week

Peak hour = the hour of highest traffic flow in either am or pm

Classification schemes

DfI Roads historically classified vehicles using the DoENI 5 classification scheme. This classification scheme was specifically designed for the Department of Environment (DoE), now DfI Roads, in Northern Ireland and is therefore not directly comparable with any other class scheme used in the rest of the UK and further afield.

To ensure the classification data collected is available in a more widely recognised format DfI Roads took the decision to start collecting data using the EURO 6 classification scheme.

From 2017-2019 only 18 sites classified vehicles using the DoENI 5 classification scheme and the remaining sites classified vehicles using the EURO 6 classification scheme.

From 2020 onwards all permanent traffic counters classify vehicles using the EURO 6 classification scheme.

A summary of the two classification schemes is given below: -

DoENI 5 CLASS SCHEME

Class 1 = Car, Car & Trailer and Light Van

Class 2 = Medium Goods Van and Minibus (<8.7m)

Class 3 = Rigid Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) (>8.7m)

Class 4 = Articulated Vehicle and Rigid HGV + Trailer

Class 5 = Bus and Coach

%HGV = percentage of the AADT in Classes 3, 4 & 5

EURO 6 CLASS SCHEME

Class 1 = Motorbike

Class 2 = Car / Van

Class 3 = Car / Van + Trailer

Class 4 = Rigid HGV

Class 5 = Articulated HGV

Class 6 = Bus and Coach

%HGV = percentage of the AADT in Classes 4, 5 & 6