

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVES AND STANDARDS

Volume	Chapter	Section	Directive Number	Effective Date
VI	3	1	9	11/14/2013

SUBJECT: PRHIBITING STOP SIGNS AT INTERSECTIONS WITH TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

- PURPOSE:** This directive sets forth the Department of Transportation and Development's (DOTD) policy to prohibit the installation of temporary STOP sign(s) at intersections with traffic control signals.
- SCOPE:** This policy applies to all intersections on the State highway system where traffic control signals that display red, yellow and green indications are installed.
- POLICY:** STOP sign(s) shall not be displayed at any time, at any intersection, on any approach, where a traffic control signal is installed. This includes, but is not limited to, permanently installed fold up STOP signs, permanently installed bagged STOP signs, STOP signs on barriers, STOP signs on portable sign frames, etc.
- SUPPORT:** Louisiana R.S. 32:232.1 states *"Unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, when a traffic control signal is not functioning at an intersection, and the signal lights are completely dark, the intersection shall revert to an all way stop and traffic shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 32. 121(A)."*

During power outages or emergency situations, the Department cannot ensure that a representative will be present when the power outage or emergency situation is corrected. Therefore, it cannot be guaranteed that the STOP sign(s) will be removed and/or covered prior to the return of stop-and-go operation of the traffic control signal. Failure to remove or cover the STOP sign(s) would result in conflicting traffic control.

In addition, the Department cannot realistically supply and install STOP sign(s) for all signalized intersection approaches during area-wide outages. Installation of STOP sign(s) for only some approaches and not others would entice motorists to violate the Louisiana Revised Statute and further confuse drivers as to what proper action is required at other dark signalized approaches.

If the Department deems that the uninterrupted operation of a traffic control signal to be essential for the safety and welfare of motorists, a generator or generator plug may be installed to ensure the continual operation of the traffic control signal during a power outage or emergency situation. The justification for a generator or generator plug should be forwarded to the Traffic Engineering Division Administrator for approval and programming.

- WAIVERS:** Deviations from this policy must be requested in writing and forwarded to the Traffic Engineering Division Administrator along with engineering justification for the variation from policy.
- APPLICATION OF STANDARDS:** These standards shall apply immediately.
- OTHER ISSUANCES AFFECTED:** All directives, memoranda or instructions issued heretofore in conflict with this directive are hereby rescinded.
- IMPLEMENTATION:** This directive will become effective immediately upon issuance.

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