

## ENGINEERING DIRECTIVES AND STANDARDS

| Volume | Chapter | Section | Directive Number | Effective Date |
|--------|---------|---------|------------------|----------------|
| VI     | 2       | 1       | 6                | 10/6/1982      |

**SUBJECT:       SIGNING OF AT-GRADE RAILROAD-HIGHWAY CROSSINGS**

**1. BACKGROUND:** Acts 188 and 310 of the 1962 Legislature provide for certain changes in the manner of signing protection of at-grade railroad-highway crossings, and authorize the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, to promulgate such signing as he deems necessary, provided such signing is not inconsistent with the provisions of the acts.

**2. POLICY:** The policy of the Department of Transportation and Development, with respect to signing of at-grade railroad highway crossings, shall be as follows:

The situations covered below are at intersections not protected by flashing light signals. At locations where flashing light signals are installed, the cross-buck sign should be installed in conjunction with the signals as indicated by figures 8-3 through 8-7, Part VIII of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 1978 Edition.

**A. Existing Railroad Grade Crossings on State Maintained Highways**

- 1) On existing grade crossings, it shall be the responsibility of the railroad company to furnish, install and maintain two standard "cross-buck" signs. These shall conform to detail specifications as outlined in Part VIII of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 1978 Edition. This "cross-buck" sign shall supersede and replace the "Louisiana Law Stop" sign used prior to the passage of Acts 188 and 310 of 1962. Where multiple tracks are crossed, an auxiliary sign of inverted "T" shape indicating the number of tracks shall be installed below the cross-buck in the manner and at the heights indicated in figure 8-1 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- 2) At existing grade crossings, not protected by flashing light signals but where a detailed traffic engineering study conducted by the Department of Transportation and Development, has deemed such flashing lights necessary, the Department may furnish, install and maintain oversize (36"x36") "Stop" signs on each roadway approach during the interim period until the flashing light signals are installed.
- 3) On each approach to all at-grade crossings, the Department of Transportation and Development, shall furnish, install and maintain a standard "Railroad Advance Warning" sign.
- 4) All signs referred to above whether installed by the railroad company or the Department of Transportation and Development shall conform to specifications contained in the Louisiana Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, revised 1978, both as to sign design and placement.

**B. New Railroad Grade Crossings on State Maintained Highways**

- 1) If the new crossing results from construction of a new or relocated highway, the Department of Transportation and Development shall furnish and install two standard "cross-buck" signs; however, the railroad company is to maintain the "cross-buck" signs.
- 2) If the new crossing results from construction of a new or relocated railroad, the railroad company shall furnish, install and maintain two standard reflectorized "cross-buck" signs.
- 3) The Department of Transportation and Development shall furnish, install and maintain standard "Railroad Advance Warning" signs on each highway approach to the crossing.
- 4) At new grade crossings where a detailed traffic engineering study, conducted by the Department of Transportation and Development, deems flashing light signals necessary, the Department may furnish, install and maintain oversize (36"x36") "Stop" signs on each roadway approach during the interim period until the flashing light signals are installed.

- 5) All signs referred to above, whether installed by the railroad company or the Department of Transportation and Development, shall conform to specifications contained in the Louisiana Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, revised 1978, both as to sign design and placement.

C. Other Than State Maintained Highways

- 1) On all grade crossings of railroads and highways other than those maintained by the Department of Transportation and Development, it shall be the responsibility of the railroad company to furnish, install and maintain the standard reflectorized "cross-buck" sign or signs, as required.
- 2) With written approval of the Department of Transportation and Development, the railroad company or the public entity with jurisdiction over the roadway may install an oversize (36"x36") "Stop" sign at grade crossings found to be in need of flashing light signals.
- 3) Where such stop signs are erected, the railroad company or local officials shall furnish, install and maintain the standard "Railroad Advance Warning" sign.
- 4) Where such stop signs are not erected, local officials shall install standard "Railroad Advance Warning" signs as a local responsibility.
- 5) All signs referred to above, whether installed by the railroad company or local officials, shall conform in design to specifications contained in the Louisiana Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Revised 1978.

**3. OTHER ISSUANCES AFFECTED:** This directive supersedes Assistant Secretary's P.P.M. 9. All directives, memoranda or instructions issued heretofore in conflict with this directive are hereby rescinded.

**4. IMPLEMENTATION:** This directive will become effective immediately upon receipt.

LACY GLASCOCK  
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DIVISION