

Part 7: Traffic Signs

Many collisions and near crashes occur as a result of drivers who ignore or fail to respond appropriately to traffic signs. It is essential that the meaning of traffic signs be interpreted correctly. Signs are classified according to their function: regulatory, warning and information.

The easiest way to identify traffic signs is to learn to recognize their shapes and colours. For safe driving, you must recognize and obey traffic signs without hesitation.

A sign-conscious driver is a safe driver. Keep a constant look-out for signs as you move your eyes in the field of view ahead of you.

7.1 Six basic sign shapes every driver must know



Stop

The stop sign, a red octagon with white lettering, means come to a full stop and be sure the way is clear before proceeding.



Yield

Yield Right of Way signs are triangular and have a red border on a white background.

A yield sign means you must reduce speed when approaching an intersection. Give right of way and stop if necessary if any other traffic is in, or closely approaching, the intersection.



Regulatory

Regulatory signs are white rectangles or squares with black or other coloured lettering. These signs state the law, such as speed limits, parking regulations and turning and passing movements.



Warning

Warning signs are diamond shaped and are yellow or orange with black letters or symbols. They warn of dangerous or unusual conditions ahead, such as a curve, turn, dip or side road.



Railway Crossing

The crossbuck is the traditional symbol at roadway-railway crossings. Signs with a red reflective border on a white reflective background have replaced the older sign with "Railway Crossing" in black lettering.



School Zone

The fluorescent yellow five-side (pentagonal) sign indicates a school zone. When children are present in a school zone, slow down, watch for children and exercise extreme caution. The maximum speed permitted is 50 km/h unless otherwise posted.

Regardless of the speed limit posted in a school area, your speed must be reasonable and prudent for existing conditions.

7.2 Standard sign colours

Each colour has a particular meaning.



Red — Stop or prohibition



Blue — Attraction/tourism information or motorist services



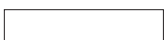
Green — Indicates traffic movement such as turns which are permitted or directional guidance



Yellow — General warning danger/caution



Fluorescent yellow — School zone and school crosswalk ahead signs



White — Regulatory



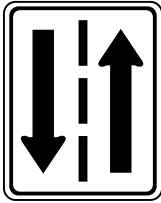
Orange — Construction and maintenance warning

7.3 Regulatory Signs

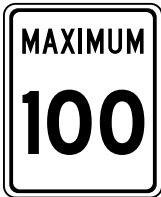
Regulatory signs inform drivers of laws and regulations affecting the use of the highway. It is an offence under the *Motor Vehicle Act* to disregard them.



One-way street or highway



Two-way traffic



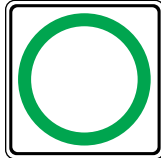
The maximum speed allowed under ideal conditions



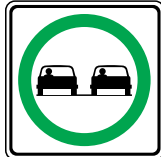
Advance warning of a lower maximum speed zone ahead



Truck inspection station



Signs with a green circle give permission, as indicated



Passing permitted



Heavy trucks should use this roadway



Dangerous goods route



Signs with a red circle and diagonal slash deny permission, as indicated



Passing not permitted



No heavy trucks are allowed on roadway



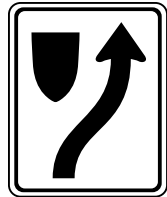
Dangerous goods carriers prohibited



Do not enter



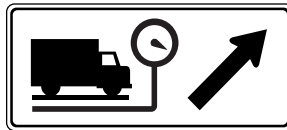
You must not turn your vehicle around in the roadway to travel in the opposite direction (no U-turn)



Keep to the right of traffic islands or obstruction



Weight limit of vehicle permitted on highway or bridge expressed in tonnes



Inspection station exit (Arrow indicates which side of road)

Parking signs

Parking prohibited
as indicated



Stopping prohibited
as indicated

Pedestrian signs

These signs indicate pedestrian movement, either at an intersection or mid-block. You must yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk.

Lane designation signs

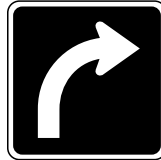
These signs may be mounted above (or to the side of) the roadway. When mounted above, each sign is centred over the lane it controls.



This lane must
turn left



This lane left
or right



This lane must
turn right



This lane all
movements



This lane left
or through



This lane
through only



This lane right
or through



Two-way
left turn lane

Turn control signs

These signs may be accompanied by a tab that indicates the sign is only in effect during certain hours of the day.



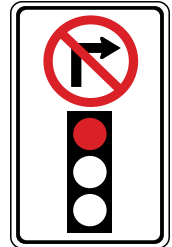
No left turn



Turn left only



Turn right only



No right turn on red
*Wait for green light
before making
a right turn*



No right turn



Through or left turn



Through or right turn



Turn right or left



No turns

7.4 Warning signs

Warning signs are yellow and diamond shaped, and use symbols instead of words. They give warning of some condition of the road ahead that calls for special care on the part of the driver.



Two-way traffic
ahead



Obstruction
Pass to either side



Stop sign ahead



Divided highway
begins
Keep to the right



Divided highway ends



Concealed or unusual intersection ahead
Road from right and/or left



Narrow bridge ahead
Width of pavement narrower than approach



Lane ends
Right lane ends



Road surface slippery when wet



Road narrows
Road ahead is not as wide as the road you are driving on



Reverse curve ahead
Two turns in opposite directions separated by a tangent of less than 120m, first turn right



Curve to the right ahead



Traffic signals ahead
Be prepared to stop



Section of roadway regularly crossed by animal depicted



Winding road ahead
First curve right



Checkerboard
Road ends but may proceed left or right



Bump or rough road ahead



Steep hill ahead
Shift to lower gear or slow down if going down very steep hill



Underpass ahead
Overhead clearance as indicated



Added lane
Two roads converge and merging movements are not required



Sharp curve
Maximum advised speed



Warns of "T" intersection
Road turns sharply right and left



Two lanes merge ahead
Traffic entering from right



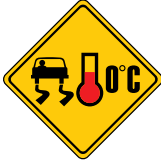
Railway ahead
Road intersects with rail tracks ahead at angle depicted



Pavement ends
Continuation has gravel surface



Cattle crossing ahead



Surface subject to icing
Bridge or roadway surface may be slippery at zero degrees Celsius — slow down



School bus stop ahead
Stop for bus with flashing lights



Snowmobile crossing ahead



Playground ahead

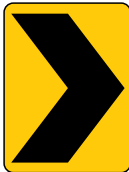


School crosswalk ahead



Pedestrian crosswalk ahead

Hazard Markers



Chevron
Chevron alignment signs may be used to guide drivers around sharp curves in the road



Hazard close to the edge of the road
The downward lines show the side on which you may safely pass



Slow moving vehicle
Mounted on the rear of vehicles that travel at speeds less than 40 km/h
It warns drivers approaching from behind to slow down



Warning sign on overdimension loads or on escort vehicles

Construction Signs

Construction signs have black letters or symbols on an orange background.



Construction ahead
This sign indicates you are entering a construction zone. Drive with extra caution and be prepared for changes in the speed limit.



Road work ahead
This sign marks a zone where construction workers and maintenance activities are present. Pay attention to the posted speed limits in these zones and practice caution.



Survey crew ahead
This sign indicates a survey crew is working on or near the travelled portion of the road. Slow down and practice caution.



Pavement drop-off
This sign warns motorists that they are on or approaching a section of roadway where either the adjacent lane or shoulder or both are lower or higher than the motorist's travel lane.



Traffic control person ahead
Be prepared to stop for instructions.

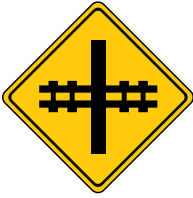


Detour ahead



Truck entrance left/right
The location at which trucks are entering, leaving or crossing.

7.5 Railway Crossings



The deadliest of all highway collisions is that which occurs between a motor vehicle and a train. Railway/highway crossing collisions should never occur. Public railway/highway crossings are marked with signs, and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices, for your protection. Learn what they are and watch for them.

Advance warning signs

These signs tell you to look, listen and slow down because you may have to stop. There may be an advisory speed sign erected below the advance warning sign to show that the safe road speed is less than the posted speed.

Pavement markings

Pavement markings consist of an "X" and/or stop line that may be painted on the pavement at the approach to some railway/highway crossings.

Railway Crossing signs

Railway Crossing signs are found at all public railway/highway crossings. A Railway Crossing sign means drivers must yield to all trains. If there is more than one track, the sign below the Railway Crossing sign indicates the number of tracks.

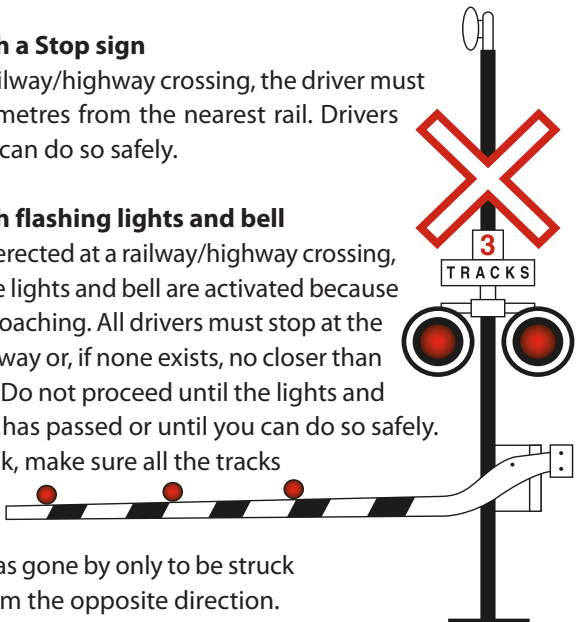
Railway Crossing signs with a Stop sign

If a stop sign is erected at a railway/highway crossing, the driver must stop no closer than five (5) metres from the nearest rail. Drivers must not proceed until they can do so safely.

Railway Crossing signs with flashing lights and bell

If flashing lights and bells are erected at a railway/highway crossing, the driver must stop when the lights and bell are activated because this means that a train is approaching. All drivers must stop at the stop line painted on the roadway or, if none exists, no closer than five metres from nearest rail. Do not proceed until the lights and bells have stopped, the train has passed or until you can do so safely.

If there is more than one track, make sure all the tracks are clear before crossing. Drivers have started across the tracks right after a train has gone by only to be struck by a second train coming from the opposite direction.



7.6 Guide Signs

Guide signs are essential to guide the motorist along established roads, to inform them of intersecting roads, and generally to give such information as will help the driver along their way in the most simple, direct method possible.



Trans Canada
highway



Arterial highway



Collector highway



Local highway



Hospital



Airport
Plane points
direction to airport



Local airport

7.7 Information Signs

These signs are square in shape. They indicate the location of various facilities.



Museum



Gasoline



Picnic facilities



Campground



Accommodations



Food



Tourist information