

Traffic Note 9 – Revision 2

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Railway level crossing signs and markings – Guidelines

1 Purpose

This revision of *Traffic Note 9* reaffirms previous recommendations and incorporates changes arising from *Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004* (the rule).

2 'Crossbuck' and other signs

This note provides guidance on the installation of 'Crossbuck' (PW-14*) and 'Number of tracks' (PW-15) signs at railway level crossings.

- PW-14 signs must be erected at all level crossings and when erected replace any existing 'RAILWAY' signs.
- PW-15 signs must be erected at all level crossings where there are two or more tracks.

The *Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings* (MOTSAM) describes two sizes for these signs:

PW-14a 1000 x 200 mm	PW-15a 350 x 280 mm
PW-14b 1500 x 300 mm	PW-15b 525 x 400 mm

The larger PW-14b and PW-15b signs should preferably be used in all situations. The smaller PW-14a and PW-15a signs should only be used at restricted urban sites where the operating speed (V_{85}) is 70 km/h or less.

Installation of PW-14 signs at level crossings with existing 'active' warning devices, ie flashing lights and bells and/or half-arm barriers, has proven to be a problem. It was found generally impractical to install PW-14 signs on existing active warning device assemblies to form RG-33 'Flashing light signal sign combination'. Calculations show the signs cannot be realistically installed on existing masts without major base stabilisation work. An additional offset is also necessary to avoid the sign fouling a raised barrier arm.

PW14 signs may therefore be mounted on a separate white pole from existing active warning devices. They should be located as near as practical to the position indicated for RG-33 sign

combinations in Figures 4.13, 4.14, 4.15 and 4.16 of MOTSAM Part II Markings but outside the rail corridor. Special care will be required to ensure the visibility of the flashing lights is not obstructed in any way. Where necessary PW-14 signs may be mounted at a lower level, or even on the right hand side of the approach road to ensure they are clearly visible to approaching drivers.

At all new installations of active devices PW-14 signs should be installed as part of the flashing light assembly. The rail access provider will initiate such new installations and liaise with the road controlling authority (RCA) regarding any changes to existing signs at the crossing.

3 Rail access provider approvals required

No work should be carried out in the rail corridor without the specific authority of the rail access provider.

Where an RCA plans erecting larger signs or considers target boards should be used agreement of the rail access provider must be obtained to ensure there is no interference with any railway equipment.

In all cases, the signs required at level crossings should be installed in consultation with, and to the specification of, the rail access provider. Any sign previously installed in error within the rail corridor (particularly any on a flashing light masts) should, in conjunction with the rail access provider, be removed.

4 'Stop on red signal' (RG-30) sign

The RG-30 'Stop on red signal' is an optional sign and is used only as part of a RG-33 'Flashing light signal sign combination'. It is installed to emphasise the legal requirement for drivers to stop when the railway level crossing flashing lights are operating. They should only be installed where there is a special reason such as a known history of non-compliance with flashing lights.

5 'RAIL X' road marking

The dimensions of the '**RAIL X**' markings detailed in the first issue of *Traffic Note 9* (September 1998) have now been incorporated as marking M5-1 in Schedule 2 of the rule. From 27 February 2005 all such markings should comply with these dimensions.

***Footnote**

In this traffic note, sign numbers quoted are those appearing in MOTSAM. These numbers and sign descriptors are cross-referenced below to signs described in the rule:

MOTSAM	Descriptor	Rule
PW-14	'Crossbuck' railway level crossing position indicator	W15-3
PW-15	'(number of)' tracks supplementary	W15-4
RG-30	Stop on Red Signal	R2-6
RG-33	Flashing light signal sign combination	R2-11.1

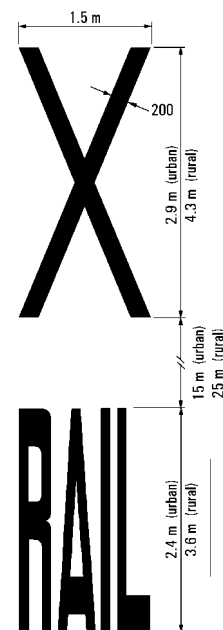


Figure: Marking M5-1