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**

This 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** — General information or service road information
- **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
- **Brown** — Off road facilities/motorist services
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**
- **Passing Permitted**
- **Heavy trucks should use this roadway**
- **No heavy trucks are allowed on roadway**
- **Dangerous goods route**
- **Dangerous goods carriers prohibited**

*Signs with a green circle give permission, as indicated.*

*Signs with a red circle with a slash deny permission, as indicated.*
Traffic Signs

**Do not enter**

**Keep to the right of traffic islands or obstruction**

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

**Truck inspection station**

**Inspection station exit**

Arrow indicates which side of road

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

**Parking Signs**

**Parking prohibited as indicated**

**Stopping prohibited as indicated**
**Parking 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 must turn right
- This lane left or through
- This lane right or through
- This lane left or right
- This lane all movements
- This lane through only
- 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
- Through or Right turn
- No right turn
- Through or Left turn
- Turn left only
- Turn right only
- 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
- Road surface slippery when wet
- Traffic signals ahead: Be prepared to stop
- Bump or rough road ahead
- Steep hill ahead: Shift to lower gear or slow down if going down very steep hill
Section of roadway regularly crossed by animal depicted

Concealed or hidden intersection ahead
*Road from right and/or left*

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*

Underpass ahead
*Overhead clearance as indicated*

Narrow bridge ahead
*Width of pavement narrower than approach*

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

Winding road ahead
*First curve right*

Lane ends
*Right lane ends*

3.8 m

Winding road ahead
*First curve right*

Lane ends
*Right lane ends*

Sharp curve
*Maximum advised speed*

Curve to the right ahead

Checkerboard
*Road ends or very sharp turn*
Added lane
Two roads converge
and merging movements are not required

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

Railway ahead
Road intersects with rail tracks ahead at angle depicted

School bus stop ahead
Stop for bus with flashing lights

Pavement ends
Continuation has gravel surface

Warms of “T” intersection
Road turns sharply right and left

Two lanes merge ahead
Traffic entering from right

Snowmobile crossing ahead

Pedestrian crosswalk or corridor ahead

Cattle crossing ahead

Playground ahead

School crosswalk ahead
Hazard Markers

Chevron (arrowhead)
*Posted in groups 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 the beginning of an ORANGE ZONE where speed limit is 60 km/h or less when passing highway workers.

**Survey crew ahead**
The maximum speed is 60 km/h when passing crews or equipment engaged in work on the highways.

**Traffic control person ahead**
Be prepared to stop for instructions.

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

**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.

**Detour ahead**
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 him/her of intersecting roads, and generally to give such information as will help the driver along his/her way in the most simple, direct method possible.
7.7 Information Signs

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

- **Museum**
- **Accommodations**
- **Gasoline**
- **Food**
- **Picnic facilities**
- **Tourist information**
- **Campground**