

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



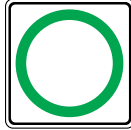
Brown – Off road facilities/motorist services

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.



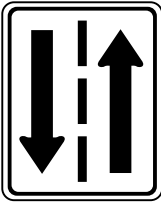
One-way street
or highway



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



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



Two-way traffic



Passing Permitted



Passing Not Permitted



The maximum speed allowed
under ideal conditions



Heavy trucks should use
this roadway



No heavy trucks are allowed
on roadway



Advance warning of a lower
maximum speed zone ahead



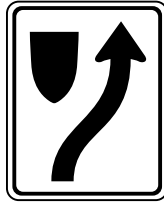
Dangerous goods route



Dangerous goods carriers
prohibited



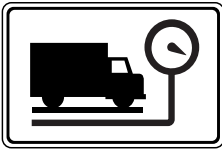
Do not enter



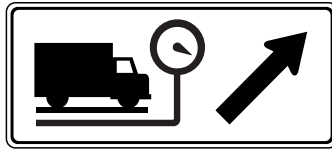
Keep to the right of traffic islands or obstruction



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



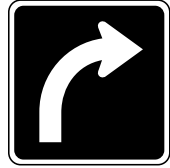
These signs indicate pedestrian movement, either at an intersection or mid-block. You must yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk.

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.



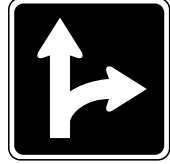
This lane must turn left



This lane must turn right



This lane left or through



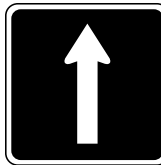
This lane right or through



This lane left or right



This lane all movements



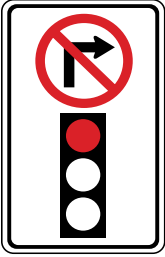
This lane through only



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 right turn on red
Wait for green light before making a right turn



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*



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



Section of roadway regularly crossed by animal depicted



Underpass ahead
Overhead clearance as indicated



Narrow bridge ahead
Width of pavement narrower than approach



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



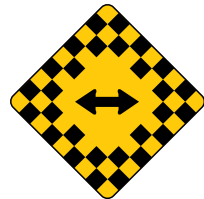
Winding road ahead
First curve right



Lane ends
Right lane ends



Curve to the right ahead



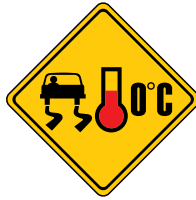
Checkerboard
Road ends or very sharp turn



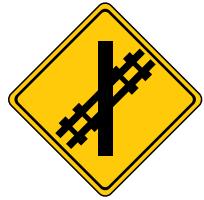
Sharp curve
Maximum advised speed



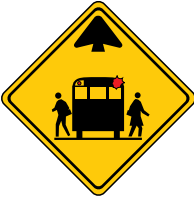
Added lane
Two roads converge
and merging movements
are not required



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



Warns 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

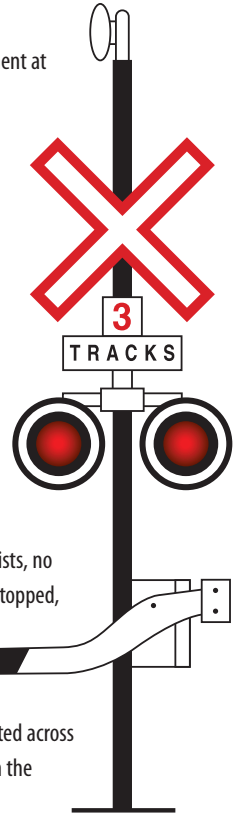
Railway Crossing Signs are found at all public railway/highway crossings. A Railway Crossing Sign means drivers must yield to all trains. If there is more than one track, the sign below the Railway Crossing Sign indicates the number of tracks.

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.



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



Accommodations



Gasoline



Food



Picnic facilities



Tourist information



Campground