



RAILROAD CROSSINGS

RAILROAD CROSSING PROCEDURES

FOLLOW A SIX-STEP PROCEDURE:

1. Slow down and take caution when you are approaching a crossing.
2. If a train is coming ensure you leave enough space. 15-20 feet between your truck and the railroad tracks.
3. If no train is coming, or the train has cleared the area and it is safe to move forward, you will want to cross slowly, to avoid damaging your truck and/or trailer. If you're stuck on the tracks, get out of your vehicle, use the phone number on the emergency notification sign at the railroad crossing, if you don't have the number, call the local police or 911.
4. You will want to make sure your entire truck and trailer will fit on the other side of the railroad tracks after you cross. That means again a 15 to 20-foot buffer between your truck, trailer, and the railroad tracks after you have crossed the railroad crossing.
5. When you have decided to cross the railroad tracks, cross without further delay, and never stop on the railroad tracks. It is very dangerous to stop on the railroad tracks. A quick note for you, you never want to shift on a railroad crossing to avoid the chance of stalling on the railroad tracks.
6. You never want to try to beat the guard arms if a train is coming. The risks are too great! You may not have enough time to cross. Trains are going much faster than they appear.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER REGULATIONS

SLOWING DOWN FOR 392.11: Other than the vehicles listed in 392.10, all commercial motor vehicles upon approaching a railroad crossing will drive at a rate of speed which will permit the commercial motor vehicle to stop before reaching the nearest railroad crossing. The vehicle should not be over a railroad crossing until a driver has practiced caution and has ensured that the coast is clear.

STOPPING AT 392.10: At railroad grade crossings stopping is mandatory. There are exceptions to this, and the exceptions will be talked about in a few minutes. The regulation specifies here that when the driver stops at railroad grade crossings, there is a specific distance the truck must stop. The truck and trailer must stop between 50 feet, but not closer than 15 ft to the railroad tracks. The regulation further explains that the driver is to look both ways and to listen for any oncoming trains. The driver needs to decide, is it safe to cross, if the driver chooses that it is safe, the driver can cross the railroad tracks in a gear that will ensure they will get over the tracks safely. The regulations state the driver must not shift gears while crossing the tracks.

WHEN STOPPING IS NOT MANDATORY: Sometimes stopping is not mandatory per Federal Motor Carrier Regulations. You need not stop at streetcar crossings or railroad tracks used only for industrial switching within a business district. You need not stop at a railroad grade crossing when a police officer or crossing flag man directs traffic to proceed. They do not require stopping for a railroad grade crossing controlled by a functioning highway traffic signal transmitter which, under local law permits the commercial motor vehicle to proceed across the tracks without slowing or stopping. There is no need to stop at abandoned railroad grade crossings. They mark abandoned tracks with a sign. Lastly, there is no need to stop at an industrial or spur line railroad grade crossing marked with a sign reading exempt.

TRAVELING ACROSS A HIGHWAY-GRADE CROSSING

CROSSING A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING STEPS: There are six steps to crossing a highway-rail grade crossing.

1. Approach with care and be prepared to stop.
2. Turn off the radio and fan, roll down your window and listen for a train.
3. Look and listen. Open the window and door, look both ways carefully, and look and listen for a train.
4. Do a double take. Ensure you can see around objects.
5. Make sure you are a bare minimum of 15 feet away from the tracks when you stop.
6. Cross with care.

Team Safe Trucking's mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.



RAILROAD CROSSINGS CONT.

SIGNS AND SIGNALS

CROSSBUCK SIGN WITH A STOP SIGN: A crossbuck with a stop sign means it requires you to stop.

CROSSBUCK SIGN WITH A YIELD SIGN: This means you need to check for trains then go if it's clear.

CROSSBUCK SIGN ALONE: You should treat it like a yield sign check- for trains and only stop if you see a train.

CROSSBUCK SIGN WITH A MULTI TRACK SIGN BELOW: This sign shows how many tracks are present. If there is no stop sign, the driver must yield to a train. Sometimes you will see a stop and yield. These signs mean the same thing as they do at highway intersections.

DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS SIGN: This sign means exactly what it says- do not stop on the railroad tracks for any reason.

TRACKS OUT OF SERVICE SIGN: It tells drivers that trains no longer use the tracks for travel. It is unnecessary to stop before crossing.

HIGH PROFILE OR HIGH CENTER SIGN (HUMP CROSSING SIGN): This sign shows there is a clearance issue for trucks and to be wary when crossing the railroad tracks.

NO TRAIN HORN SIGN: These signs gesture the Federal Railroad Administration advises trains to not sound a horn in this area.



CROSSBUCK SIGN



MULTI TRACK SIGN



YIELD



STOP



DO NOT STOP



OUT OF SERVICE



HUMP SIGN

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

POLICE OFFICER OR A FLAGMAN AT THE CROSSING: The uniformed law enforcement officer is directing traffic at the crossing and you will need to follow their directions.

EXTRA-LONG LOADS: When you have an extra-long load, you will need to ensure that your load will still clear the railroad tracks and that means you will need to be over 15 feet from the railroad tracks.

STORAGE AREA: With storage area you will need to consider if there is a stop sign on the other side of the railroad tracks and you will need to consider space. When you are considering space, you need to factor in that a train overhangs the tracks by at least three feet on each side. As a driver you may find yourself in situations when you need to consider the following scenario: when there is a stop sign on the other side of the tracks. You will want to ask yourself a series of questions: What is the distance from the stop sign to the railroad tracks? How long is my rig, trailer, and load? Will there be enough space between the stop sign and the 3-foot overhang of the train for my truck and trailer to cross safely? These are questions you should consider for storage area.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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