

Part 12
Railroad Trains, Railroad Grade Crossings, and Safety Zones

41-6a-1201 Driving on tracks.

- (1) The operator of a vehicle proceeding on any track in front of a railroad train on a highway shall remove the vehicle from the track as soon as practicable after signal from the operator of the train.
- (2) When a railroad train has started to cross an intersection, an operator of a vehicle may not drive:
 - (a) on or across the tracks; or
 - (b) in the path of the train within the intersection in front of the train.
- (3) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-1202 Driving through safety zone.

- (1) The operator of a vehicle may not drive through or within a safety zone.
- (2) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-1203 Railroad grade crossing -- Duty to stop -- Malfunctions and school buses -- Driving through, around, or under gate or barrier prohibited.

- (1) As used in this section, "active railroad grade crossing" means the same as that term is defined in Section 41-6a-1005.
- (2) Whenever a person operating a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing, the operator of the vehicle shall stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad track and may not proceed if:
 - (a) a clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment;
 - (b) a crossing gate is lowered, or when a human flagman gives or continues to give a signal of the approach or passage of a railroad train or other on-track equipment;
 - (c) a railroad train or other on-track equipment approaching within approximately 1,500 feet of the highway crossing:
 - (i) emits an audible signal; and
 - (ii) the railroad train or other on-track equipment is an immediate hazard because of the railroad train's or other on-track equipment's speed or proximity to the crossing;
 - (d) an approaching railroad train or other on-track equipment is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing; or
 - (e) there is any other condition that makes it unsafe to proceed through the crossing.
- (3)
 - (a) An operator of a vehicle who suspects a false activation or malfunction of a railroad grade crossing signal device where there is no gate or barrier may drive a vehicle through the railroad grade crossing after stopping if:
 - (i) the operator of a vehicle has a clear line of sight of at least one mile of the railroad tracks in all directions;
 - (ii) there is no evidence of an approaching railroad train or other on-track equipment;

- (iii) the vehicle can cross over the tracks safely; and
 - (iv) the operator of a school bus is compliant with written district policy.
 - (b) As soon as is reasonably possible, the operator of a school bus shall notify the driver's dispatcher and the dispatcher shall notify the owner of the railroad track where the grade crossing signal device is located of the false activation or malfunction.
- (4)
- (a) A person may not drive a vehicle through, around, or under a crossing gate or barrier at an active railroad grade crossing.
 - (b) A person may not cause a non-rail vehicle, whether or not occupied, to pass through, around, over, or under or remain on a gate or barrier at an active railroad grade crossing.
 - (c) A person may not cause a non-rail vehicle, whether or not occupied, to pass around, through, over, or under or remain in a rail or fixed guideway right-of-way in a manner that would cause a railroad train or other rail vehicle to make contact with the non-rail vehicle.
- (5) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 104, 2022 General Session

41-6a-1204 Trains -- Interference with vehicles limited.

- (1) A person or government agency may not operate a train in a manner to prevent vehicular use of a roadway for a period of time in excess of five consecutive minutes except:
- (a) when necessary to comply with signals affecting the safety of the movement of trains;
 - (b) when necessary to avoid striking any object or person on the track;
 - (c) when the train is disabled;
 - (d) when the train is in motion or while engaged in switching operations;
 - (e) when there is no vehicular traffic waiting to use the crossing;
 - (f) when necessary to comply with a governmental safety regulation; or
 - (g) as determined by a highway authority.
- (2) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-1205 Railroad grade crossings -- Certain vehicles must stop -- Exceptions -- Rules.

- (1) An operator of a commercial motor vehicle, as defined under Section 53-3-102, shall upon approaching a railroad grade crossing:
- (a) except as provided in Subsection (2), slow down and check that the tracks are clear of an approaching railroad train or other on-track equipment;
 - (b) stop within 50 feet, but not closer than 15 feet, from the nearest rail of the railroad track before reaching the crossing if the tracks are not clear;
 - (c) obey all traffic control devices or the directions of a peace officer, or other crossing official at the crossing; and
 - (d) before proceeding over a railroad grade crossing:
 - (i) ensure that the vehicle has sufficient space to drive completely through a railroad grade crossing without stopping; and
 - (ii) ensure that the vehicle has sufficient undercarriage clearance to safely and completely pass through the crossing.
- (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the operator of a vehicle described in 49 CFR 392.10:
- (a) shall stop within 50 feet, but not closer than 15 feet, from the nearest rail of the railroad track before crossing, at grade, any track of a railroad;

- (b) while stopped, shall:
 - (i) look in both directions along the railroad track for:
 - (A) a sign of an approaching railroad train or other on-track equipment; or
 - (B) a signal indicating the approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment; and
 - (ii) listen for a signal indicating the approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment;
 - (c) may proceed across the railroad track only when reasonably safe to cross; and
 - (d) after stopping and safely proceeding, may not manually shift gears while crossing the railroad track.
- (3) This section does not apply at a:
- (a) railroad grade crossing where traffic is controlled by a peace officer or other crossing official;
 - (b) railroad grade crossing where traffic is regulated by a traffic-control signal;
 - (c) railroad grade crossing where a traffic-control device gives notice that the stopping requirements of this section are not applicable; or
 - (d) other railroad grade crossings excluded under 49 CFR 392.10.
- (4) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 104, 2022 General Session

41-6a-1206 Railroad crossing duties respecting crawler type tractor, power shovel, derrick, or other equipment or structure.

- (1) A person may not operate or move the following on or across any tracks at a railroad grade crossing without first complying with this section:
- (a) a crawler type tractor;
 - (b) a power shovel;
 - (c) a derrick;
 - (d) a roller; or
 - (e) any equipment or structure having:
 - (i) normal operating speed of 10 or less miles per hour; or
 - (ii) a vertical body or load clearance of less than:
 - (A) 1/2 inch per foot of the distance between any two adjacent axles; or
 - (B) in any event, nine inches measured above the level surface of a roadway.
- (2) A person intending to operate or move a vehicle or equipment described in Subsection (1) on or across railroad tracks at a railroad grade crossing shall give to the railroad:
- (a) notice of the person's intended crossing; and
 - (b) reasonable time to provide proper protection at the railroad grade crossing.
- (3) Before making a crossing under this section, a person operating or moving a vehicle or equipment described in Subsection (1):
- (a) shall first stop within 50 feet but not closer than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railway;
 - (b) while stopped, shall:
 - (i) look in both directions along the railroad track for:
 - (A) a sign of an approaching railroad train or other on-track equipment; or
 - (B) a signal indicating the approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment; and
 - (ii) listen for a signal indicating the approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment; and
 - (c) may proceed across the track only when the crossing can be made safely.
- (4) A person operating or moving a vehicle or equipment described in Subsection (1) shall obey all traffic control devices or the directions of a peace officer or other crossing official at the crossing.
- (5) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 104, 2022 General Session