

Part 3 Traffic-Control Devices

41-6a-301 Standards and specifications for uniform system of traffic-control devices and school crossing guards.

- (1) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Transportation shall make rules consistent with this chapter adopting standards and establishing specifications for a uniform system of traffic-control devices used on a highway.
- (2) The standards and specifications adopted under Subsection (1) shall:
 - (a) include provisions for school crossing zones and use of school crossing guards; and
 - (b) correlate with, and where possible conform to, the system set forth in the most recent edition of the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways" and other standards issued or endorsed by the federal highway administrator.

Amended by Chapter 382, 2008 General Session

41-6a-302 Placing and maintenance on state highways -- Restrictions on local authorities.

In accordance with Section 72-3-109, a highway authority shall place and maintain traffic-control devices:

- (1) in conformance with the standards and specifications adopted under Section 41-6a-301 on all highways under the highway authority's jurisdiction; and
- (2) as the highway authority finds necessary to:
 - (a) carry out the provisions of:
 - (i) this chapter; or
 - (ii) a local traffic ordinance if the highway authority is a local highway authority; or
 - (b) regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 2, 2005 General Session

41-6a-303 Definition of reduced speed school zone -- Operation of warning lights -- School crossing guard requirements -- Responsibility provisions -- Rulemaking authority.

- (1) As used in this section "reduced speed school zone" means a designated length of a highway extending from a school zone speed limit sign with warning lights operating to an end school zone sign.
- (2) The Department of Transportation for state highways and local highway authorities for highways under their jurisdiction:
 - (a) shall establish reduced speed school zones at elementary schools after written assurance by a local highway authority that the local highway authority complies with Subsections (3) and (4); and
 - (b) may establish reduced speed school zones for secondary schools at the request of the local highway authority.
- (3) For all reduced speed school zones on highways, including state highways within the jurisdictional boundaries of a local highway authority, the local highway authority shall:
 - (a)
 - (i) provide shuttle service across highways for school children; or
 - (ii) provide, train, and supervise school crossing guards in accordance with this section;
 - (b) provide for the:

- (i) operation of reduced speed school zones, including providing power to warning lights and turning on and off the warning lights as required under Subsections (4) and (5); and
 - (ii) maintenance of reduced speed school zones except on state highways as provided in Section 41-6a-302; and
 - (c) notify the Department of Transportation of reduced speed school zones on state highways that are in need of maintenance.
- (4) While children are going to or leaving school during opening and closing hours all reduced speed school zones shall have:
- (a) the warning lights operating on each school zone speed limit sign; and
 - (b) a school crossing guard present if the reduced speed school zone is for an elementary school.
- (5) The warning lights on a school zone speed limit sign may not be operating except as provided under Subsection (4).
- (6)
- (a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Transportation shall make rules establishing criteria and specifications for the:
 - (i) establishment, location, and operation of school crosswalks, school zones, and reduced speed school zones;
 - (ii) training, use, and supervision of school crossing guards at elementary schools and secondary schools; and
 - (iii) content and implementation of child access routing plans under Section 53G-4-402.
 - (b) If a school crosswalk is established at a signalized intersection in accordance with the requirements of this section, a local highway authority may reduce the speed limit at the signalized intersection to 20 miles per hour for a highway under its jurisdiction.
- (7) Each local highway authority shall pay for providing, training, and supervising school crossing guards in accordance with this section.
- (8) Each local highway authority shall ensure that any training described in this section complies with Title 63G, Chapter 22, State Training and Certification Requirements.

Amended by Chapter 200, 2018 General Session

Amended by Chapter 415, 2018 General Session

**41-6a-304 Obeying devices -- Effect of improper position, illegibility, or absence --
Presumption of lawful placement and compliance with chapter.**

- (1)
- (a) Except as otherwise directed by a peace officer or other authorized personnel under Section 41-6a-209 and except as provided under Section 41-6a-212 for authorized emergency vehicles, the operator of a vehicle shall obey the instructions of any traffic-control device placed or held in accordance with this chapter.
 - (b) A violation of Subsection (1)(a) is an infraction.
- (2)
- (a) Any provision of this chapter, for which a traffic-control device is required, may not be enforced if at the time and place of the alleged violation the traffic-control device is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person.
 - (b) The provisions of this chapter are effective independently of the placement of a traffic-control device unless the provision requires the placement of a traffic-control device prior to its enforcement.

- (3) A traffic-control device placed or held in a position approximately conforming to the requirements of this chapter is presumed to have been placed or held by the official act or direction of a highway authority or other lawful authority, unless the contrary is established by competent evidence.
- (4) A traffic-control device placed or held under this chapter and purporting to conform to the lawful requirements of the device is presumed to comply with the requirements of this chapter, unless the contrary is established by competent evidence.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-305 Traffic-control signal -- At intersections -- At place other than intersection -- Color of light signal -- Inoperative traffic-control signals -- Affirmative defense.

- (1)
 - (a) Green, red, and yellow are the only colors that may be used in a traffic-control signal, except for a:
 - (i) pedestrian traffic-control signal that may use white and orange; and
 - (ii) rail vehicle that may use white.
 - (b) Traffic-control signals apply to the operator of a vehicle and to a pedestrian as provided in this section.
- (2)
 - (a)
 - (i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(a)(ii), the operator of a vehicle facing a circular green signal may:
 - (A) proceed straight through the intersection;
 - (B) turn right; or
 - (C) turn left.
 - (ii) The operator of a vehicle facing a circular green signal, including an operator turning right or left:
 - (A) shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time the signal is exhibited; and
 - (B) may not turn right or left if a sign at the intersection prohibits the turn.
 - (b) The operator of a vehicle facing a green arrow signal shown alone or in combination with another indication:
 - (i) may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow or other indication shown at the same time; and
 - (ii) shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
 - (c) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian traffic-control signal under Section 41-6a-306, a pedestrian facing any green signal other than a green turn arrow may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- (3)
 - (a) The operator of a vehicle facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is warned that the allowable movement related to a green signal is being terminated.
 - (b) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian traffic-control signal under Section 41-6a-306, a pedestrian facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown, and a pedestrian may not start to cross the roadway.
- (4)

- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c), the operator of a vehicle facing a steady circular red or red arrow signal:
 - (i) may not enter the intersection unless entering the intersection to make a movement is permitted by another indication; and
 - (ii) shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the marked or unmarked crosswalk on the near side of the intersection and shall remain stopped until an indication to proceed is shown.
- (b) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian traffic-control signal under Section 41-6a-306, a pedestrian facing a steady red signal alone may not enter the roadway.
- (c)
 - (i)
 - (A) The operator of a vehicle facing a steady circular red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right, or may turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street, after stopping as required by Subsection (4)(a).
 - (B) If permitted by a traffic control device on the state highway system, the operator of a vehicle facing a steady red arrow signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street after stopping as required by Subsection (4)(a).
 - (ii) The operator of a vehicle under Subsection (4)(c)(i) shall yield the right-of-way to:
 - (A) another vehicle moving through the intersection in accordance with an official traffic-control signal; and
 - (B) a pedestrian lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk.
- (5)
 - (a) This section applies to a highway or rail line where a traffic-control signal is erected and maintained.
 - (b) Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the highway pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but, in the absence of any sign or marking, the stop shall be made at the signal.
- (6) The operator of a vehicle approaching an intersection that has an inoperative traffic-control signal shall:
 - (a) stop before entering the intersection; and
 - (b) yield the right-of-way to any vehicle as required under Section 41-6a-901.
- (7)
 - (a) For an operator of a motorcycle, moped, or bicycle who is 16 years of age or older, it is an affirmative defense to a violation of Subsection (4)(a) if the operator of a motorcycle, moped, or bicycle facing a steady circular red signal or red arrow:
 - (i) brings the motorcycle, moped, or bicycle to a complete stop at the intersection or stop line;
 - (ii) determines that:
 - (A) the traffic-control signal has not detected the operator's presence by waiting a reasonable period of time of not less than 90 seconds at the intersection or stop line before entering the intersection;
 - (B) no other vehicle that is entitled to have the right-of-way under applicable law is sitting at, traveling through, or approaching the intersection; and
 - (C) no pedestrians are attempting to cross at or near the intersection in the direction of travel of the operator; and
 - (iii) cautiously enters the intersection and proceeds across the roadway.
 - (b) The affirmative defense under this section does not apply at an active railroad grade crossing as defined in Section 41-6a-1005.

(8) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-306 Pedestrian traffic-control signals -- Rights and duties.

- (1) A pedestrian facing a steady "Walk" or symbol of "Walking Person" of a pedestrian traffic-control signal has the right-of-way and may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal.
- (2) A pedestrian facing a flashing "Don't Walk" or "Upraised Hand" of a pedestrian traffic-control signal may not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island.
- (3) A pedestrian facing a steady "Don't Walk" or "Upraised Hand" of a pedestrian traffic-control signal may not enter the roadway in the direction of the signal.
- (4) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-307 Flashing red or yellow signals -- Rights and duties of operators -- Railroad grade crossings excluded.

- (1) Except as provided under Section 41-6a-1203 regarding railroad grade crossings, the:
 - (a) operator of a vehicle facing an illuminated flashing red stop signal used in a traffic-control signal or with a traffic sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the nearest side of the intersection, or if none, then at a point nearest the intersecting roadway where the operator has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering;
 - (b) right to proceed is subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign; and
 - (c) operator of a vehicle facing an illuminated flashing yellow caution signal may cautiously proceed through the intersection or cautiously proceed past the signal.
- (2) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-308 Lane use control signals -- Colors.

- (1) The operator of a vehicle facing a traffic-control signal placed to control individual lane use shall obey the signal as follows:
 - (a) Green signal -- vehicular traffic may travel in any lane over which a green signal is shown.
 - (b) Steady yellow signal -- vehicular traffic is warned that a lane control change is being made.
 - (c) Steady red signal -- vehicular traffic may not enter or travel in any lane over which a red signal is shown.
 - (d) Flashing yellow signal -- vehicular traffic may use the lane only for the purpose of approaching and making a left turn.
- (2) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-309 Prohibition of unauthorized signs, signals, lights, or markings -- Commercial advertising -- Public nuisance -- Removal.

- (1) Except as provided in Section 41-6a-310, a person may not place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any highway any unauthorized sign, signal, light, marking, or device which:
 - (a) purports to be or which resembles a traffic-control device or railroad sign or signal, or authorized emergency vehicle flashing light;
 - (b) attempts to direct the movement of traffic;
 - (c) hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of a traffic-control device or any railroad sign or signal; or
 - (d) blinds or dazzles an operator on any adjacent highway.
- (2) Except as provided under Section 72-7-504 regarding logo advertising, a person may not place or maintain any commercial advertising on any traffic-control device.
- (3) The provisions of Subsections (1) and (2) do not prohibit a sign on private property adjacent to a highway providing directional information in a manner that may not be mistaken for a traffic-control device.
- (4) Every prohibited sign, signal, or light, or marking is a public nuisance and the highway authority having jurisdiction over the highway may remove it or cause it to be removed without notice.
- (5) A violation of this section is an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

41-6a-310 Private vehicle as emergency vehicle -- Rules.

- (1) The commissioner of the Department of Public Safety may make rules, consistent with this chapter, governing the use, in emergencies, of signal lights on privately owned vehicles.
- (2) The rules under Subsection (1) may authorize a privately owned vehicle to be designated for part-time emergency use.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 2, 2005 General Session

41-6a-311 Interference with traffic-control devices prohibited -- Traffic signal preemption device prohibited -- Exceptions -- Defense.

- (1) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a person may not alter, deface, damage, knock down, or remove any:
 - (a) traffic-control device;
 - (b) traffic-monitoring device; or
 - (c) railroad traffic-control device.
- (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a person may not:
 - (a) knowingly use a traffic signal preemption device to interfere with the authorized operation or the authorized cycle of a traffic-control signal; or
 - (b) operate a motor vehicle on a highway while in possession of a traffic signal preemption device.
- (3) The provisions of Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a person authorized by the highway authority or railroad authority with jurisdiction over the device.
- (4) A violation of Subsection (1) or (2) is a class C misdemeanor.
- (5) It is an affirmative defense to a charge under Subsection (2)(b) that the traffic signal preemption device was inoperative and could not be readily used at the time of the citation or arrest.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session