



# TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANUAL

## Chapter 2 - Signing 2B – Regulatory Signs

### Other Regulatory Signs

Originally Issued: 12-12-05, Last Revised: 02-20-20

#### General

There are a number of regulatory signs that do not fit into broad categories of signs, including Pedestrian signs, Traffic Signal signs, Highway-Rail Grade Crossing signs, Road Closed signs, Weight Limit signs, Hazardous Cargo signs, Preferential Lane signs, Truck Route signs and Seat Belt Usage signs.

Regulatory word message signs other than those classified and specified in the MUTCD and the “Standard Highway Sign” book may be developed to aid the enforcement of other laws or regulations. The State Traffic Engineer will provide assistance with sign design at the request of the District Office.

#### Traffic Signal Signs

To supplement traffic signal control, Traffic Signal signs may be used to regulate road users as discussed in [MUTCD Section 2B.40](#). The Left Turn Yield on Green (symbolic green ball) sign is used where left-turning traffic is controlled by a green arrow indication or a circular green ball, depending on time of day or other factors. The Left Turn Signal sign is used where the indications of a separate left turn signal face controlling only a separately-controlled left turn lane will also be visible to traffic with other allowable movements. The No Turn On Red sign may be used to prohibit turns on red when one or more of five conditions listed in [MUTCD Section 2B-40](#) exists.

Traffic signal signs applicable to pedestrians shall be used as described in [MUTCD Section 2B-40](#).

#### Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Signs

The Crossbuck sign and Number of Tracks sign are placed by the Rail Company as stated in [MUTCD Section 8B.02](#). The regulatory Exempt sign may be provided by the Iowa DOT and installed by the Rail Company. The [Code of Iowa Section 321.343](#), states “An exempt sign shall be posted only where the tracks have been partially removed on either side of the roadway”.

- If continuous rails are in place, even if the rail line is no longer in use, crossbucks, warning signs and markings are to be in place and the Exempt sign is not to be used.
- If the crossing has been removed or covered or if all rails including the crossing have been removed all signs and markings should be removed.
- If there are rails at the crossing only and the rails in both directions have been removed, the crossbucks, warning signs and pavement markings are to remain in place and Exempt signs should be in place.

Whenever engineering judgment determines that the potential for vehicles stopping on the tracks is high, a Do Not Stop On tracks sign should be used as stated in [MUTCD Section 8B.06](#).

## Road Closed Signs

Road Closed, Road Closed To Thru Traffic and Local Traffic Only signs shall be used as described in [Standard Road Plan TC-252](#). The Road Closed sign is used at the physical closure of the road. The Road Closed (10) Miles Ahead Local Traffic Only is used where the road is closed some distance beyond the sign and is usually accompanied by a Detour sign. The Road Closed To Thru Traffic sign is used at the last intersection where traffic can turn off or turn around.

## Weight Limit Signs

Several methods of posting weight limits are in use on Iowa highways, due to the variance of situations involved. The most common situation is one in which the gross weight of the vehicle is restricted depending on the vehicle configuration. In this case the weight limits are posted at the bridge as well as at an approach intersection where restricted vehicles can detour or turn around. [Policy 610.03](#) of the Policies and Procedures Manual gives the procedures for imposing and terminating bridge closures, embargoes and other restrictions on bridges.

[Policy 610.05](#) gives the procedures for establishing and terminating weight limits on primary highways. This policy provides for a ninety-day embargo of highways that because of deterioration, rain, snow or other climatic conditions may be seriously damaged or destroyed by vehicles of legal weight. The sign, Road Closed to Vehicles Over (10) Tons is placed on both ends of the embargoed section where restricted vehicles can detour or turn around and at major intersecting roads.

## Weigh Station Signs

On 2-lane or four-lane undivided highways there are four basic signs for weigh stations:

- Weigh Station ½ Mile
- Trucks Over 10,000 lbs. Must Weigh
- Weigh Station with a Closed/Open changeable message
- Weigh Station with right or left arrow

All four signs have a black message on a white background.

On divided highways, signs similar to those used for interchanges and rest areas are used for weigh station signing:

- Weigh Station 1 Mile
- All Trucks Over 10,000 lbs Must Weigh
- Weigh Station Next Right
- Weigh Station with right diagonal arrow placed in gore of ramp

The signs have a white message on a green background except that the All Trucks Over 6000 lbs Must Weigh sign has a black message on a white background.

## Truck Route Signs

The Truck Route sign is used to mark a route that has been designated to allow truck traffic. All primary highways and extensions in cities are truck routes and need not be signed. Where a city has designated and signed a truck route, the primary road extension may be included if needed for continuity. The signs are provided and installed by the city.

## Seat Belt Signs

The Iowa seat belt sign used to alert motorists that Iowa has a seat belt law is Buckle Up For Life It's Our Law with a symbol belt and buckle. The signs have a black message on a white background. They are placed at locations selected by the Office of Traffic and Safety.

## Engine Brake Ordinance Enforced Signs

When a county or city has passed an ordinance regarding the use of engine brakes within their jurisdiction and wishes to have signs placed on a primary highway, the Iowa DOT will provide and place the signs at or near the county line or corporate limit.

## Unlawful to Pass Stopped School Bus Signs

There are two types of signs to remind motorists of the fact that it is unlawful to pass a stopped school bus. The Unlawful To Pass Stopped School Bus sign is used on multilane divided highways. The Unlawful To Pass Stopped School Bus From Either Direction sign is used on two-lane highways. Both types are placed in the series of signs at state border crossings and for traffic leaving cities over 1000 population as shown on Figure 6 of [Traffic and Safety Manual Section 2A-10](#).

## \$70 Fine For Disposal of Litter On Highway

\$70 Fine For Disposal Of Litter On Highway signs are used to inform unfamiliar motorists of the regulation. They are placed in the series of signs at state border crossings and for traffic leaving cities over 1000 population as shown on Figure 6 of [Traffic and Safety Manual Section 2A-10](#).

## Bicycle Signs

Guidance for application and placement of bicyclist traffic control devices may be found in [MUTCD Part 9](#) Traffic Control for Bicycle Facilities.

---

**Document Revision History: 12-12-05, 06-23-06, 04-23-07, 02-20-20**