

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

### **Rail crossing safety warning signs and devices DSP87**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on Rail crossing safety warning signs and devices DSP87, Wis. Stat. ss. 192, Wis. Stat. ss. 195, and Wis. Stat. ss. 346, a proposed guidance document.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website:

<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=DSP87>

2. Mailing written comments to:

Division of State Patrol  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor South  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

### **WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at [wisconsin.dot.gov](http://wisconsin.dot.gov) to allow for ongoing comment.

### **AGENCY CONTACT**

DOTDSPGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV



## State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation



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# Rail crossing safety warning signs and devices

Railroad safety

Warning signs and devices

## Advance warning signs

- The advance warning sign is a round, yellow sign bearing the lettering RXR.
- The "X" is very large, covering the full diameter of the sign. It is usually the first warning you will see that you are approaching a railroad crossing.
- Slow down, look and listen for an approaching train. Look ahead to pinpoint the location of the crossing. At this point you still have plenty of time to stop if a train is coming.



## Pavement markings

- As you approach the crossing you may see a large RXR painted on the pavement.
- As with the advance warning sign, the "X" will be very large in

comparison to the two Rs. Behind this warning will be a stop line painted closer to the tracks.

- Stay behind this line to be safe from a train when it passes.

## Crossbuck signs

- So called "crossbuck" signs have the words "RAILROAD" and "CROSSING" in black and white assembled in a large "X" configuration.
- If there is more than one set of tracks this sign will also tell how many tracks there are on a separate sign below the crossbuck.
- As you approach, look and listen for an approaching train. The crossbuck sign means the same as a yield sign, which means that if a train is approaching you must yield and let the train pass. A recently enacted state law will require that a YIELD sign be placed below the crossbuck sign at crossings that do not have stop signs or red flashing light signals. This is being done to further emphasize that a crossbuck sign means that you must yield to trains.

## Red flashing lights and gates

- Many crossbuck signs have red lights and bells attached. Some even have gates which cross the traffic lane.
- If the lights begin to flash or the bells begin to ring, STOP! A train is coming.
- You must yield to the train and remain stopped until the lights have stopped flashing and the gates have lifted.
- If there are multiple tracks, make sure the train you see isn't hiding another one you don't see.
- Sometimes when the lights don't stop flashing or the gate doesn't go up immediately after the passage of a train, it means there's another train approaching. In this case, impatience to get back on the road could be deadly.

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