

APPROVED BY NCUTCD COUNCIL ON JANUARY 19, 2007

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Railroad and Light Rail Transit Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: January 19, 2007

Deleted: October 9, 2006

TOPIC: MUTCD Proposed change to Emergency Notification Signs (ENS), Section 8B.12

ORIGIN: Railroad and Light Rail Transit Technical Committee

DISCUSSION: The RR&LRTTC has proposed to replace the current Section 8B.12 regarding ENS with the following. The technical committee believes the ENS are of extreme value at highway-rail grade crossings to provide information to roadway users in the event of an emergency or signal malfunction requiring notification to the railroad. At the request of the National Committee, the RR&LRT TC has rewritten the entire ENS section to simplify its requirements and assure that the appropriate information is displayed. Although it can be argued that these signs are not truly traffic control devices, they are consistent with other information or emergency signs contained in MUTCD and provide valuable information to roadway users in times of need.

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REPLACE the existing Section 8B.12 with the following:

Section 8B.12 Emergency Notification Sign

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Guidance:

Emergency Notification Signs (ENS) should be installed at all highway-rail grade crossings to provide information to roadway users to permit notification to the railroad of emergencies or malfunction of traffic control devices.

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Standard:

When Emergency Notification Signs are used, they shall, at a minimum, include the US DOT grade crossing inventory number and the emergency contact telephone number. The Emergency Notification Signs shall be positioned so as not to obstruct any traffic control devices or limit the view of trains approaching the highway-rail grade crossing.

The US DOT grade crossing inventory number and emergency contact telephone number shall be a minimum letter height of ½ in.

Option:

In lieu of Emergency Notification Signs, the US DOT grade crossing inventory number and emergency contact telephone number may be displayed on the enclosure for the signal apparatus at crossings equipped with active traffic control systems.

Standard:

Emergency Notification Signs shall use black letters on a white background.

(NOTE: Compliance period to be recommended as 15 yrs)

Guidance:

Emergency Notification Signs or information should be oriented so as to face vehicles stopped on or at the crossing or traveled way near the crossing.

At station crossings, Emergency Notification Signs or information should be posted in a conspicuous location.

Emergency Notifications Signs mounted on crossbuck assemblies or signal masts should only be large enough to provide the necessary contact information. Use of larger signs which may obstruct the view of trains or other vehicles should be avoided.

Emergency Notification signs should be retro-reflective.

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-Emergency Notification Signs may use white letters on a blue background.¶

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-Emergency Notification signs may use black letters on a white background or white letters on a blue background.¶

Table 8B-1 – Modify ENS sign size requirement,

Emergency Notification	EM-8	8B.12, 10C.21	Varies (3)			
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Notes:

1. Larger signs may be used when appropriate.
2. Dimensions are shown in millimeters followed by inches in parentheses and are shown as width x height.
3. [Sign Dimensions based on legend size](#)

Deleted: --A supplemental Emergency Notification sign may be placed on the enclosure for the signal apparatus at highway-rail grade crossings equipped with active traffic control devices.

Deleted: --The name of the operating railroad may be included on any Emergency Notification signs.

--Additional instructions for use of Emergency Notification signs may be included if they enhance the message to be provided.

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10C.21

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Replace Figure 8B-4 with the following:

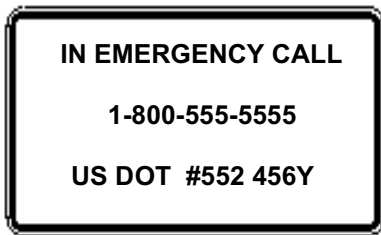
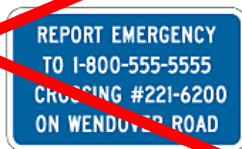


Figure 8B-4. Emergency Notification Signs



I-13



I-13a

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