

From: Melvyn Nash, Level Crossing Consultant
To: Chandrika Shah, Office of Rail Regulation
Subject: ORR Consultation on the review of guidance on LCs
Sent: Tue 13/07/2010 11:58

Chandrika,

I have the following comments on the two LC documents circulated as part of the consultation process:

Managing Level Crossings

I welcome the decision to revise and update Section E of the RSPG as this keeps all LC guidance in one location and reduces the number of documents required when "on site".

I have the following comments on specific points:

Para 293 - Road markings to Diagram 1028.3 should also be used in the lay-by.

Para 316 - the 1m distance is at variance with Paragraph 9.4 of Chapter 5 of the Traffic Signs Manual which states that the Stop line should be positioned a minimum of 1.5m with 2.5m being used where practicable. It should be noted that the 2m distance at AOCL crossings was specified to ensure the RTS would be seen clearly where a barrier is not provided (second train issue).

Para 325 - A table giving guidance on the road speed limits for the use of road markings 1004, 1004.1 etc would be beneficial.

Para 333 - No tolerance in the 4m spacing. Paragraph 19.16 of Chapter 5 of the Traffic Signs Manual adds "nominal" to the 4m spacing.

Figures 2 to 6 have not been updated to reflect the TSR&GD 2002 eg Diagram 785.1 still shows "BR" and Diagram 780A does not show the metric equivalent heights.

Using Level Crossings

I am in favour of any initiative that improves the understanding of the safe use of LCs, however, I doubt if this will be read by your target audience as most LC users have never read the Highway Code (at least since passing their driving test).

I am concerned that the photographs used are not good examples of the type of LC:

AHBC & ABCL - The nearside RTS is partially obstructed by foliage and the

road markings appear to have faded.

AHBC & ABCL - Text - not all AHBC crossings have been modified so that the audible alarm remains on until the barriers raise. Also pedestrian lines are provided at his type of crossing.

AOCL - Signs to Diagram 774 missing (should be above each RTS), signs to Diagram 785.1 missing from the nearside RTS.

AOCL - Text - No reference to the provision of flashing "Another Train Coming" signs to Diagram 776 at double line crossings.

OC - Signs to Diagram 778, 775 and 785.1 missing from the nearside sign posts.

Full barrier crossings - Text - the provision of pedestrian lines at these crossings is the exception rather than the normal situation

Regards,

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