

CHAPTER 17
TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES,
SIGNS AND MARKINGS

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LESSON TOPIC:

TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES, SIGNS AND MARKINGS

OBJECTIVES:

To enable the driver to:

- identify the meaning of the standard colors, shapes, symbols and messages used on traffic signs and;
- identify the meaning of standard roadway markings.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES/NOTES	CONTENT
<p>ASK “WHAT DO THESE STANDARD COLORS MEAN?”</p>	<p>Standard colors and their meanings are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RED – stop or movement prohibited. 2. GREEN – indicates movements permitted, direction guidance. 3. BLUE – motorist service and guidance. 4. YELLOW – general warning. 5. BLACK – regulation. 6. WHITE – regulation. 7. ORANGE – construction and maintenance warning. 8. BROWN – public recreation and scenic guidance.
<p>ASK “WHAT DO THESE STANDARD SHAPES MEAN?”</p>	<p>Standard shapes and their meanings are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OCTAGON – stop. 2. HORIZONTAL RECTANGLE - guidance information. 3. DIAMOND – general warning. 4. PENTAGON – school warning. 5. PENNANT – warning of no passing zone. 6. VERTICAL RECTANGLE – regulatory except for stop and yield. 7. EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE – yield. 8. ROUND – advance warning of a railroad crossing. 9. CROSSBUCK – railroad crossing. <p>The U.S. is moving toward an international type system of traffic signs which emphasize pictures and</p>

symbols rather than written messages. Symbolic signs are not entirely new as some have been used in this country for many years. They provide almost instant communication with the driver since they can be understood at a glance without having to be read.

Some of the present word signs will remain in use. These are signs which have proven effective in the past and which contain easily understood messages.

Using the standard colors and shapes, there are three (3) classifications of traffic signs.

REGULATORY SIGNS

Regulatory signs inform highway users of traffic laws or regulations.

Regulatory signs are generally a rectangle with the longer dimension vertical with a black legend on a white background. Other colors and shapes are also used.

Two (2) of the most common regulatory signs are used to indicate right-of-way. These are stop and yield signs.

Regulatory signs are used to control speeds such as maximum, night or minimum speeds.

Regulatory signs do exactly what they say – they regulate what a driver can do.

They are also used to control turning movements. These are shown two (2) ways; by the older message signs or the newer symbolic signs with the red circle and red slash mark which means no or do not. For example: “Do Not Turn Right” or “No U Turn.”

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	<p>They also control turning movements by showing direction of travel in a particular lane. Both lanes can turn left but only the right lane can go ahead – the familiar center lane is for left turns only.</p> <p>Regulatory signs are used to control alignment such as “Pass With Care” or “Do Not Pass.”</p> <p>Alignment is also controlled by indicating keep right or keep left.</p> <p>Regulatory signs indicate exclusion such as “Do Not Enter” or “Wrong Way,” or by prohibiting certain types of vehicles such as “No Trucks, No Bicycles” or “Motor Vehicles Only.”</p> <p>Some regulatory signs indicate one-way movement. Certain regulatory signs control parking.</p> <p>When parking is prohibited, the parking signs have red lettering, such as “No Parking Any Time;” “No Stopping, Standing, or Parking;” or “No Parking, Bus Stop.”</p> <p>When parking is permitted, but restricted as to time or manner, the lettering is green; such as “One-hour Parking” or “Parallel Parking Only.”</p> <p>Regulatory signs can be used to supplement information given by traffic signals, such as “Stop Here On Red,” “No Turn on Red,” or “Crosswalk.”</p> <p>Finally, regulatory signs are used for a variety of other controls; such as to provide axle weight limits, or indicate</p>

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	<p>railroad crossings, or when the road is closed to through traffic.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WARNING SIGNS</p> <p>The second major classification of traffic signs is “warning signs.” Warning signs inform the driver of situations ahead which may require extra care. These signs are yellow with black lettering and generally are diamond-shaped. Other shapes are used for very specific purposes.</p> <p>Warning signs are used to show changes in horizontal alignment; such as turns, curves and winding roads.</p> <p>Various types of intersections ahead are indicated symbolically. These signs indicate a cross road, a “T”, and a “Y” intersection.</p> <p>Advance warning of traffic control devices is provided. Sometimes, a written message is used; such as “Stop Ahead.” On others, the sign uses the pictures of the device ahead, such as yield sign or a traffic signal.</p> <p>Warning signs are used to show converging traffic lanes; such as the symbolic merge sign; or the message or symbolic sign for showing that the right lane ends.</p> <p>They are used to indicate narrow roadways such as “Road Narrows” or “One-Lane Bridge.”</p> <p>Changes in highway design are also shown on warning signs. For instance, “Divided Highway Ahead,” “Divided Highway Ends,” or “Two-Way Traffic.”</p>

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	<p>Highway grades and advance warning of railroad crossings are indicated on warning signs.</p> <p>Roadway surface conditions such as “Bump,” “Soft Shoulder,” and “Slippery When Wet” are also indicated.</p> <p>Various kinds of entrances and crossings are shown on warning signs. For instances, “Truck Entrance,” “Deer Crossing” or “Bicycle Crossing.”</p> <p>Warning signs are used to indicate advisory speeds such as exit and ramp speeds.</p> <p>A special type of warning sign is the pennant-shaped “No Passing Zone” sign. When used, they are on the left side of the road and are used in conjunction with the regulatory “Do Not Pass” sign.</p> <p>Finally, school signs are special kinds of warning signs, utilizing the pentagon shape. These indicate “School Area” and “School Crossing.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GUIDE SIGNS</p> <p>“Guide signs” are the third major classification of traffic signs.</p> <p>Guide signs guide drivers along streets and highways, inform them of interesting routes or direct them to their destination.</p> <p>Guide signs are generally rectangular in shape and have a white message on a green background. On conventional roads and streets, black messages on white backgrounds are frequently used as an alternative. Also, different colors and shapes are used for special purposes.</p>

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	<p>One (1) type of special guide sign is the route maker. Each highway system has its own distinctive route marker. These illustrate those used on or in conjunction with the interstate system.</p> <p>These are used for US routes, state routes, county roads and roads in national parks and forests.</p> <p>Guide signs are used to indicate junctions of highways, the cardinal direction of a highway, alternate route to a particular number highway when a numbered route ends and temporary routes.</p> <p>A variety of advance route turn arrows and directional arrows are common guide signs.</p> <p>The most typical guide signs are mileage signs.</p> <p>On some of the interchanges, symbolic destination signs such as these illustrations are used.</p> <p>A special type of guide sign is used for recreation areas. These signs have a white message on a brown background.</p> <p>Another special guide sign is the service sign. These are white messages on a blue background and illustrate the location of a phone or hospital and that there are not barriers to the handicapped.</p> <p>Other service signs show gas, food, lodging or camping either through symbolic or message signs.</p> <p>Mileposts are another form of guide signs.</p> <p>Mileage always runs from south to north or west to</p>

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INTRODUCE TOPIC.	<p>east and begins at the state line or at a junction where the route begins.</p> <p>Guide signs are used to show the locations of airports, bus stations and train stations.</p> <p>Finally, special panels reading “Exit Only” advise drivers of an imminent lane end situation. These signs use the warning sign combination of black letters on a yellow background.</p> <p>Highway construction and maintenance signs fall into the same three (3) major classifications as other signs; namely regulatory, warning and guide signs. Regulatory signs used in construction and maintenance zones use the normal standard colors, shapes and messages. Warning and guide signs also use the standardized shapes and messages but are distinctive in that black letters are used on an orange background.</p> <p>Typical construction and maintenance warning signs warn of construction or a detour ahead. They can warn of road work, shoulder work or a survey crew ahead. Typical construction and maintenance guide signs provide information on the length of a construction or maintenance zone or the direction of a detour.</p> <p><u>TRAFFIC SIGNALS</u></p> <p>Traffic signals are valuable devices to control traffic and assign right-of-way. The message in traffic signals is relayed through the use of colors, therefore, the meaning of the colors have been standardized.</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STEADY CIRCULAR GREEN SIGNAL – permits traffic to proceed if it is safe to do so. 2. STEADY CIRCULAR YELLOW SIGNAL - always follows a circular green signal or green arrow and warns that the red signal is about come on. Driver must stop if it is possible to do so. 3. STEADY CIRCULAR RED SIGNAL – means stop and remain stopped until a green signal is shown and it is safe to proceed. 4. STEADY GREEN ARROW – may be used instead of a steady circular green signal. The driver is permitted to proceed in the direction(s) of the arrow(s) if it is safe to do so. 5. FLASHING CIRCULAR RED SIGNAL – means stop and remain stopped until it is safe to proceed. Flashing red signals are used at particularly dangerous locations. 6. FLASHING CIRCULAR YELLOW SIGNAL – is a warning of a particular hazardous location. Drivers may proceed but use extreme caution. <p><u>ROADWAY MARKINGS</u></p> <p>Like traffic signs and signals, roadway marking have a definite purpose and convey a special meaning. In some cases, they supplement the regulations and warnings conveyed on traffic signs and signals. In other instances,</p>

they are used alone as there is no other way to effectively communicate this information. Roadway marking are standardized in color and type.

1. WHITE LINES – delineate separation of traffic flow in the same direction.
2. YELLOW LINES – delineate separation of traffic flow in the opposite directions.
3. BROKEN LINES – are permissive in nature. When traffic permits, broken lines may be crossed.
4. SOLID LINES – are restrictive in nature. Generally, they are not to be crossed.
5. DOUBLE SOLID LINES – indicate maximum restriction. They are not to be crossed.
6. BROKEN WHITE LINES – separate traffic lanes moving in the same direction when a roadway has more than one (1) lane moving in the same direction. Drivers are to drive between and straddle the lines. When traffic permits, broken white lines may be crossed to change lanes.
7. SOLID WHITE LINES – are used to mark the edge of the pavement. Pavement edge lines should not be crossed at moderate to high speeds. They may be crossed, however, at slow speeds when it is necessary to pull off onto the shoulder. When solid white lines

separate traffic moving in the same direction, do not cross to change lanes.

8. **BROKEN YELLOW LINES** – separate traffic moving in the opposite direction. When the broken yellow lines are on the driver's side of the road, it may be crossed if oncoming traffic permits.
9. **SOLID YELLOW LINES** – also separate traffic moving in the opposite direction. When the solid yellow line is on the driver's side of the road, it must not be crossed. One of the newer uses of the solid and broken yellow line used together is to delineate a left turn lane. The left turn lane is marked on both sides by both solid and broken yellow lines. Drivers wishing to turn left must turn from this lane.
10. **DOUBLE SOLID LINES** – are used to indicate that traffic from both directions is prohibited from crossing.
11. **WHITE ARROWS** – are used to show direction of travel for a given lane.

Pavement markings are sometimes used to delineate pedestrian crosswalks. These are marked by solid white lines. When lines are used, they run all the way across the pavement. If a stop is required, drivers must stop before crossing the pedestrian crosswalks.

Delineators are special kinds of guide markings to aid

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	<p>drivers at night. These little reflective devices are sometimes used on long continuous stretches of highway or on short sections where there is a change in the curvature of the road.</p> <p>Delineators are intended to help guide motorists as to the horizontal and vertical alignment of the highway. Delineator colors conform to the edge line colors painted on the highway. Three (3) colors are used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WHITE – may be placed on the side of the roadway. 2. YELLOW – may be placed on the left side of the roadway. 3. RED – placed backwards on a ramp or roadway so it would be viewed by motorists traveling in the wrong direction on the ramp or roadway. <p><u>SUMMARY</u></p> <p>During this chapter, traffic control devices, regulation, warning and guiding traffic signs were reviewed. Specifically, we reviewed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic Signs 2. Traffic Signals 3. Roadway Markings <p>Traffic control devices are used to assist motorists in performing their driving task. Drivers should pay particular attention to all signs, signals and markings and adjust their driving behavior accordingly. This results in a safe, more effective flow of traffic.</p>

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

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TEST

**** PLEASE ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE****

1. _____ The three (3) major classifications of traffic signs are regulatory, warning and guide signs.
2. _____ A flashing circular red signal means to come to a complete stop and remain stopped until directed to proceed.
3. _____ Solid yellow lines separate traffic moving in the opposite direction.
4. _____ A public recreation and scenic guidance sign is black in color.
5. _____ An example of a regulatory sign would be a Do Not Pass sign which is used to control alignment.
6. _____ A yellow delineator is usually placed on the left side of the roadway.
7. _____ A school warning sign is usually in the shape of a pentagon.
8. _____ A yield sign is usually in the shape of a pennant.
9. _____ Broken lines are restrictive in nature and should never be crossed.
10. _____ White arrows are used to show direction of travel for a given lane.

INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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**** PLEASE ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE****

KEY

The answer key is only released to KDE endorsed trainers.