Safety at Private Railway Level Crossings



There are almost two thousand private level crossings throughout New Zealand, where railway lines need to be crossed to access homes, farms, workplaces and other private properties.

Some of these crossings may have "Look for Trains", Stop or Give Way signs, but not all have this level of protection.

Trains and other rail vehicles always have legal right of way. The responsibility for safely crossing the tracks at all level crossings, including private crossings, rests with motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

When you see a railway level crossing sign:

- Slow down and be ready to stop, or stop if legally required (see diagram).
- As you come up to the railway crossing, search up and down the railway line. You will need to search further up the railway line, as trains often travel at a higher speed than vehicles on the road.
- Cross only if you are sure there are no trains coming in either direction and there are no vehicles stopped in front of you on the other side of the crossing.

At railway level crossings controlled by signals, bells and barrier arms:

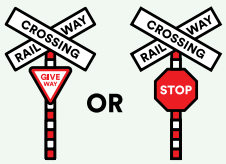
- You must stop if the signals have started flashing, the bells have started ringing and/or the barrier arm has started to lower.
- Don't cross until the barrier arms have lifted, the lights have stopped flashing and the bells have stopped ringing.

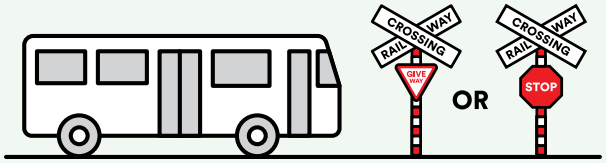
At railway level crossings controlled by a Stop sign or Give Way sign:

- Make sure you can see in both directions along the railway line.
- If there is a Stop sign, come to a complete stop before the railway line (there will usually be one or two yellow lines showing you where to stop).
- If there is a Give Way sign, and you are driving a vehicle that is required to stop (see diagram), come to a complete stop before the railway line.
- Only cross the railway line if you are sure that there are no trains coming in either direction and there are no vehicles stopped in front of you on the other side of the crossing.
- Take extra care if there is more than one railway line.

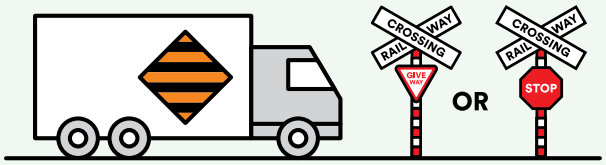
Important rules for some heavy vehicles:

You must come to a **complete stop** at railway level crossings that are uncontrolled or are controlled by Give Way or Stop signs if you are driving:





A passenger service vehicle with passengers for hire or reward (with or without goods).



A heavy motor vehicle carrying dangerous goods.

If you are driving one of the above vehicles, you do not need to automatically stop if an enforcement officer is controlling the railway level crossing, or where the crossing has barrier arms and/or flashing red signals.

Sourced from: The Official New Zealand Road Code

TrackSAFE Foundation

Advice for pedestrians:

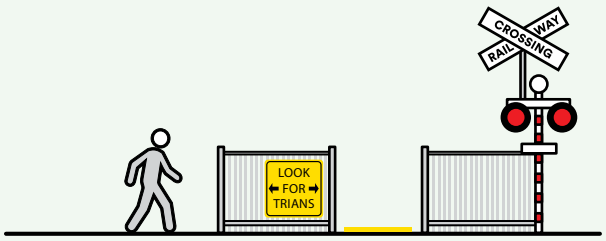
- Only cross at a formed pedestrian crossing or an overpass or underpass. Never cross railway tracks at any other point.
- Stop and look for trains both ways up and down the tracks.
- Only cross if you are sure there are no trains in sight.
- Obey the warning signs at the crossing – if lights are flashing or bells are ringing this means a train is approaching.
- Always take care if there are two sets of railway tracks - trains can come from either direction.

Moving livestock across a level crossing

- Train timetables often change, so you must contact KiwiRail's Train Control office before moving livestock over a level crossing.
- The Train Control office will be able to advise you of any train movements in your vicinity and confirm an appropriate time for you to safely move your livestock.
- Please have your Deed of Grant available so that you can provide your specific railway kilometrage found in Schedule 1.
- The Train Control office should also be notified if livestock gets loose in the rail corridor.
- Train Control office: 0800 872 462 (0800 TRAINC).

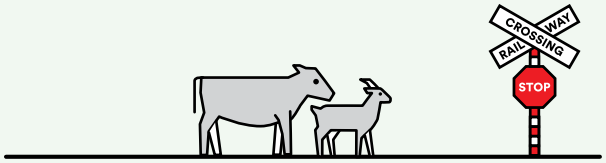
Important rules for pedestrians:

Always obey the warning signs at the crossing and only cross at a formed pedestrian crossing or an overpass or underpass.



Important rules for moving livestock:

Train timetables often change so **always** contact KiwiRail's Train Control office before moving livestock over a level crossing.
Ph: 0800 872 462







Train Control Emergency Number: 0800 808 400

If you notice a problem with a level crossing or are stuck on a level crossing call the Train Control Emergency Number (This number is only to be used in emergencies).

Further rail safety information and resources.
Please visit: **www.tracksafe.co.nz**
or find us at @TrackSAFENZ TrackSAFENZ

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