

TITLE III COMMUNITY PROTECTION

CHAPTER 4 RAILROAD REGULATIONS

- 3-4-1 Definitions
- 3-4-2 Warning Signals
- 3-4-3 Street Crossing Signs and Devices
- 3-4-4 Street Crossing Obstructions
- 3-4-5 Maintenance of Crossings
- 3-4-6 Flying Switches

3-4-1 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. The term “railroad train” shall mean any steam, electric or other motor driven engine and the cars, if any, coupled to the engine operated on rails, but does not include interurban and street cars.(Code of Iowa, Sec.321.1(58))
2. The term “operator” shall mean any individual, partnership, corporation or other association that owns, operates, drives or controls a railroad train.

3-4-1 WARNING SIGNALS. Operators shall sound a bell at least 1,000 feet before a street crossing is reached and shall ring the bell continuously until the crossing is passed. Operators also shall sound a whistle at least 1,000 feet before reaching every intersection of the track and street, sidewalk, alley or similar public crossing within the city limits, unless such crossing is protected by a mechanical warning device or flagman as required under Section 3-4-5 of this chapter.

3-4-3. STREET CROSSING SIGNS AND DEVICES. Operators shall erect and maintain non-mechanical warning signs on both sides of the tracks at each intersection of the tracks and a street, sidewalk, alley or similar public crossing within the City limits, except where some mechanical sign, signal, device, or gate or flagman is required by resolution of the Council. Such non-mechanical signs shall be of a height and size, and utilize such lettering as to give adequate warning of such crossing. Whenever the City Council shall deem it necessary for the safety and convenience of the public that some mechanical sign, signal, device or gate should be erected and maintained, flagman stationed at any street or other public crossing, the City Council, by resolution, shall order and direct the railroad company or companies concerned to erect and maintain such sign, signal, device, or gate or to station a flagman at such crossing at the expense of such company or companies. Any required flagman shall be stationed at such crossing during the periods of time of each day that the City Council shall designate. The resolution shall specify the street or other public crossing at which the sign, signal, device or gate shall be erected or flagman stationed. After the resolution has been adopted, a copy shall be served the railroad company or companies with a notice of the time limit for compliance. In complying, Chapter 327G of the Code of Iowa shall prevail. (Code of Iowa, Sec.327G.15)

3-4-4 STREET CROSSING OBSTRUCTIONS. A railroad corporation or its employees shall not operate a train in such a manner as to prevent vehicular use of a highway, street, or alley for a period of time in excess of ten minutes except in any of the following circumstance: (Code of Iowa, Sec.327G.32)

1. When necessary to comply with signals affecting the safety of the movement of trains.
2. When necessary to avoid striking an object or person on the track.
3. When the train is disabled.
4. When necessary to comply with governmental safety regulations including, but not limited to, speed ordinances and speed regulations.

An employee is not guilty of a violation if the employee's action was necessary to comply with the direct order or instructions of a railroad corporation or its supervisors. Guilt is then with the railroad corporation.

3-4-5 MAINTENANCE OF CROSSINGS. Operators shall construct and maintain good, sufficient and safe crossings over any street traversed by their rails. (Code of Iowa, Sec. 327G.15)

3-4-6 FLYING SWITCHES. No operator shall cause any railroad car or cars, unattached to any engine, to be propelled across any intersection of the tracks and a street, alley, sidewalk or similar public crossing, for the purpose of making a flying switch unless some employee of the railroad shall be stationed at the intersection to give warning of such car or car's approach.

