



Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Statewide Design & Engineering Services Division


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution

DATE: January 21, 2016

FROM: Mark Neidhold, P.E. 
Chief D&C Standards

SUBJECT: Railroad Coordination
and Certification for
Traffic Control
Devices-Maintenance
Activities

Maintenance and Routine Maintenance Activities

Railroad Certification (for coordination and adequacy of warning devices at railroad-highway grade crossings), included in Subsection 470.3 of the Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual, is not applicable for maintenance and routine maintenance activities typically administered by DOT&PF Maintenance & Operations. These activities include but are not necessarily limited to:

- maintenance of existing pavement markings,
- ditch cleaning to restore as-constructed drainage,
- culvert cleaning,
- signal system maintenance that does not improve the signal system from the as-constructed standard,
- lighting system maintenance including relamping and fixture replacement that does not improve the lighting system from the as-constructed standard,
- sign maintenance for retroreflectivity,
- guardrail, end treatment, and crash cushion maintenance,
- roadway dust maintenance,
- bridge maintenance that does not alter or improve the bridge from the as-constructed standard.

You may certify these maintenance and routine maintenance activities using Form 470-1. This form certifies, "**All applicable** utility and railroad work has been completed, or necessary agreements have been made for it to be undertaken and completed, as required for proper coordination with the physical construction schedules." The bold/underline are added here for clarity but are not included on the form.

The railroad certification requirement for installed and operational warning devices is included in 23 CFR 646.214(b)(2). The regulation establishes the requirement for new construction and for improvements by stating, “a railroad-highway grade crossing located within the limits of or near the terminus of a Federal-aid highway project for construction of a new highway or improvement of the existing roadway...” The maintenance and routine maintenance activities listed above are not constructing new roadways nor are they improving the existing roadway. Rather, these are specific activities to maintain the as-constructed condition of the roadway and the regulatory requirement is not applicable.

Preventive Maintenance Projects

Railroad certification according to Subsection 470.3 is applicable for Preventive Maintenance projects completed under Section 475 of the Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual. Section 475 requires we “Assure warning devices for highway-rail grade crossings within the project limits or near the project terminus are installed and functioning properly per 23 CFR 646.214.” So, certifications of Preventive Maintenance Projects do require compliance with the Alaska Traffic Manual as part of the applicable utility and railroad work.

The requirements for work zone traffic control (for maintenance and routine maintenance activity and preventive maintenance projects) are not altered by this clarification. Maintenance activities, including those listed in this memo, and construction project work are required to provide work zone traffic control according to the Alaska Traffic Manual.

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