

CHAPTER 7D. CROSSING SUPERVISION

Section 7D.01 Types of Crossing Supervision

Support:

- 01 There are three types of school crossing supervision:
- A. Adult control of pedestrians and vehicles by adult crossing guards,
 - B. Adult control of pedestrians and vehicles by uniformed law enforcement officers, and
 - C. Student and/or parent control of only pedestrians with student and/or parent patrols.
- 02 Information regarding the organization, administration, and operation of a school safety patrol program is contained in the “AAA School Safety Patrol Operations Manual” (see Section 1A.11).

Section 7D.02 Adult Crossing Guards

Option:

- 01 Adult crossing guards may be used to provide gaps in traffic at school crossings where an engineering study has shown that adequate gaps need to be created (see Section 7A.03), and where authorized by law.

Support:

- 02 Normally, adult guards are preferred over traffic signals only for protection of school crossings. Adult guards provide positive guidance to the school pedestrian.

Section 7D.03 Qualifications of Adult Crossing Guards

Support:

- 01 High standards for selection of adult crossing guards are essential because they are responsible for the safety of and the efficient crossing of the street by schoolchildren within and in the immediate vicinity of school crosswalks.

Guidance:

- 02 *Adult crossing guards should possess the following minimum qualifications:*
- A. *Good physical condition, including sight, hearing, and ability to move and maneuver quickly in order to avoid danger from errant vehicles;*
 - B. *Ability to control a STOP paddle effectively to provide approaching road users with a clear, fully direct view of the paddles STOP message during the entire crossing movement;*
 - C. *Ability to communicate specific instructions clearly, firmly, and courteously;*
 - D. *Ability to recognize potentially dangerous traffic situations and warn and manage students in sufficient time to avoid injury.*
 - E. *Dependability; and*
 - F. *An overall sense of responsibility for the safety of students.*

Section 7D.04 Uniform of Adult Crossing Guards

Standard:

- 01 **Law enforcement officers performing school crossing supervision and adult crossing guards shall wear high-visibility retroreflective safety apparel labeled as ANSI 107-2004 standard performance for Class 2 as described in Section 6E.02.**

Section 7D.05 Operating Procedures for Adult Crossing Guards

Standard:

- 01 **Adult crossing guards shall not direct traffic in the usual law enforcement regulatory sense. In the control of traffic, they shall pick opportune times to create a sufficient gap in the traffic flow. At these times, they shall stand in the roadway to indicate that pedestrians are about to use or are using the crosswalk, and that all vehicular traffic must stop.**
- 02 **Adult crossing guards shall use a STOP paddle. The STOP paddle shall be the primary hand-signaling device.**
- 03 **The STOP (R1-1) paddle shall be an octagonal shape. The background of the STOP face shall be red with at least 6-inch series upper-case white letters and border. The paddle shall be at least 18 inches in size and have the word message STOP on both sides. The paddle shall be retroreflectorized or illuminated when used during hours of darkness.**

Option:

- 04 The STOP paddle may be modified to improve conspicuity by incorporating white or red flashing lights on both sides of the paddle. Among the types of flashing lights that may be used are individual LEDs or groups of LEDs.
- 05 The white or red flashing lights or LEDs may be arranged in any of the following patterns:
- A. Two white or red lights centered vertically above and below the STOP legend,
 - B. Two white or red lights centered horizontally on each side of the STOP legend,
 - C. One white or red light centered below the STOP legend,
 - D. A series of eight or more small white or red lights having a diameter of 1/4 inch or less along the outer edge of the paddle, arranged in an octagonal pattern at the eight corners of the STOP paddle (more than eight lights may be used only if the arrangement of the lights is such that it clearly conveys the octagonal shape of the STOP paddle), or
 - E. A series of white lights forming the shapes of the letters in the legend.

Standard:

- 06 **If flashing lights are used on the STOP paddle, the flash rate shall be at least 50, but no more than 60, flash periods per minute.**

Section 7D.06 Student Patrols

Option:

- 01 Students patrols may be used to direct and control pedestrians at crossings near schools where adequate gaps in traffic occur frequently enough so that gaps do not need to be created.
- 02 Student patrols may be used to direct and control pedestrians at signalized intersections where turning movements are not a significant problem, and may be used to assist adult crossing guards in the control of pedestrians at crossing locations used by large numbers of pedestrians.

Guidance:

- 03 *Student patrols should not be responsible for directing vehicular traffic. They should not function as uniformed law enforcement officers or adult crossing guards.*
- 04 *Student patrols should be authorized by the local school board. School authorities should be responsible for organizing, instructing, and supervising patrols with the assistance of the local police.*

Section 7D.07 Choice of Student Patrols*Guidance:*

- 01 *Student patrols should be carefully selected. They should be students from the fifth grade or higher. Leadership and reliability should be determining qualities for patrol membership.*
- 02 *Parental approval should be obtained in writing before a student is used as a member of a student patrol.*

Section 7D.08 Operating Procedures for Student Patrols*Guidance:*

- 01 *Student patrols should use a flagging device to stop pedestrians behind the curb or edge of the roadway, and should allow them to cross only when there is an adequate gap in traffic.*

Standard:

- 02 **Flagging devices used during periods of twilight or darkness shall be retroreflective or illuminated. Because they are not authorized to direct vehicular traffic, student patrols shall not use a STOP paddle.**

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