

Service & Emergency Vehicles

• STATE & VOLUNTARY USERS •

The Safe Use of Unattended Railway Level Crossings



SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN!

2024

AT LEVEL CROSSINGS

Stop, Look, Listen

Always close gates after use

THE RAIL CROSS CODE

Use the **Rail Cross Code** each time you cross:

ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN!

Stop, look both ways and listen

- **Stop** – behind the White line or Black & Yellow markers where provided.
- **Look both ways** – watching for the lights of approaching trains.
- **Listen for a train horn** - no radio, no earbuds or headphones!
- Give way to trains – let any approaching train pass, then look both ways again.
- When the railway line is clear, cross quickly. Never stop on the railway line.
- Close the level crossing gates after use – it's the law.

Dos ✓

- Always expect a train
- Always use the Rail Cross Code at unattended railway crossings
- Always obey road signs and markings, and train warning lights
- Always switch off music systems and put away mobile phones
- Always control children and animals in your care
- Always dismount if you are a cyclist or horse rider
- Always shut and fasten the level crossing gates after crossing the railway line



Iarnród Éireann
Irish Rail

Always close gates after use – it's the law



Don'ts X

- Don't use railway signals to determine if a train is or is not approaching
- Don't drive onto the railway line until you can ensure sufficient clearance on the other side
- Don't automatically follow a vehicle across the railway level crossing – always **stop, look** and **listen**
- Don't stop on the railway level crossing
- Don't overtake another vehicle on or when approaching the railway crossing
- Don't play the radio, or wear hoods or headphones, on or near the railway line

Knowing the Dangers

- Trains travel fast and cannot stop suddenly.
- Shut and fasten all level crossing gates at all times. Leaving gates open can result in children or animals accessing on to the railway line and may encourage unsuspecting drivers of vehicles to proceed on to the level crossing before checking that it is safe to do so.
- Trains can be very quiet and this is particularly the case on modern rails.
- The use of earbuds or headphones and the use of radios will affect your ability to hear approaching trains. Remember the wearing of ear protectors will also affect your ability to hear trains. Mobile phones must not be used during the process of using the level crossing.
- Be aware that weather conditions such as mist, fog, or snow may affect your ability to see approaching trains.
- When crossing the railway line with slow, heavy, low-slung or cumbersome vehicles, vehicles conveying dangerous substances and with herds of animals you must ring the Freephone number displayed on safety signage at the level crossing.
- During the hours of darkness, take extra caution when checking for approaching trains as it might be possible to confuse train headlights with car headlights if there is a roadway parallel to the railway line.
- Every time you cross the railway, remember the **Rail Cross Code**.

When crossing, follow the instructions given on signage displayed at the level crossing, or if in doubt, contact Iarnród Éireann on Freephone number provided

Driving Vehicles, including Trailers across the Railway Line



- Make sure that your vehicle, including tow bar and trailer, is in good mechanical condition and unlikely to stall on the crossing.
- Make sure that the handbrake is in good working order.
- Make sure that the vehicle is not fogged up inside and that all the windows are clear of snow, ice and dirt and that nothing is blocking your view.
- **Open** at least one window (driver's side) before crossing the railway line.
- **Turn off** all radios or stereos and remove any earbuds or headphones. Noise may mask the sound of an approaching train. Mobile phones must not be used during the process of working the level crossing.
- Be aware of any dangers that the level crossing may hold for you.

- **Stop** clear of the railway line to ensure a good view along the track in both directions. **Look** for the approach of trains, especially in poor visibility or at night. **Watch out** for the light on an approaching train. When using the level crossing, open both gates before attempting to bring a vehicle across the railway line.
- If in doubt, ring the Freephone number displayed on the red and yellow safety signage for further information.
- Should a vehicle suffer a breakdown or become grounded on the level crossing, make sure all vehicle occupants exit the vehicle and clear the railway line immediately to a point of safety. Then contact Iarnród Éireann on the Freephone number found on signage **immediately**.
- Having used the level crossing, always close the gates after you – **it's the law. Failure to shut and fasten the gates is dangerous and you could be prosecuted.**





Driving Lorries across the Railway



- Make sure that the lorry, including trailer, is in good mechanical condition and unlikely to stall on the level crossing.
- Make sure that the handbrake is in good working order.
- Railway signals must never be used to determine if a train is or is not approaching
- Make sure that the cab windows are not fogged up inside and that all the windows are clear of snow, ice and dirt and that nothing is blocking your view.
- **Open** at least one window (driver's side) before crossing the railway line.
- **Turn off** all radios or stereos and remove any earbuds or headphones. Noise may mask the sound of an approaching train. Mobile phones must not be used during the process of working the level crossing.
- Ensure that no tow-hitch or other attachments will foul the railway line as you traverse the level crossing.

- **Stop** clear of the railway line to ensure a good view along the track in both directions. **Look** for the approach of trains, especially in poor visibility or at night. Watch out for the light on an approaching train. **Listen** for horns or the sound of an approaching train. When using the level crossing, open both gates before attempting to bring a vehicle across the railway line.
- When crossing the railway with a lorry you must ring Iarnród Éireann (see Freephone number at level crossing) to obtain information on train movements. Use the yellow telephone where provided.
- Permission to cross the line must be obtained from Iarnród Éireann for such movements across the railway line (see Freephone number at level crossing).
- Should a vehicle suffer a breakdown or become grounded on the level crossing, make sure all vehicle occupants exit the vehicle and clear the railway line immediately to a point of safety. Then contact Iarnród Éireann on the Freephone number found on signage **immediately**.
- Having used the level crossing, always close the gates after you – **it's the law. Failure to shut and fasten the gates is dangerous and you could be prosecuted.**



Unusual Movements across Railway Level Crossings



Make Contact Iarnród Éireann beforehand if you are:

- Driving an awkward vehicle – for example, a long, low, wide, heavy or slow vehicle
- Moving vehicles with dangerous, unusual or very heavy loads

Use the Freephone number which you will find at the railway level crossing on the red and yellow sign.

If you are driving a very high vehicle and using a railway level crossing with overhead electrified lines, such as on the DART network, please note that the general safe head-room is 5 metres.



Driving Slow, Heavy, Low-Slung and Cumbersome Vehicles across the Railway

- You must obtain permission to cross the railway line from Iarnród Éireann, by using the Freephone number found on signage, in advance and in good time. You should advise the type of vehicle you intend bringing across the line and you should also advise the likely duration of the movement as special arrangements may have to be made for the safe use of the level crossing. Always advise Iarnród Éireann, by using the Freephone number found on signage, when the level crossing has been safely traversed.
- **Never** attempt to cross the railway with a vehicle which may ground on the railway line. You could cause a **serious accident**. You may also cause delays to train services while the problem is being resolved.
- Safe passage with an unladen trailer does not guarantee a trouble-free return journey, if the vehicle is laden.
- Make sure that the level crossing gates are sufficiently wide for the vehicle to pass without becoming jammed and without damaging either the gates or their supports.
- Should a vehicle suffer a breakdown or become grounded on the level crossing, make sure all vehicle occupants exit the vehicle and clear the railway line immediately to a point of safety. Then contact Iarnród Éireann on the Freephone number found on signage **immediately**.
- Having used the level crossing, always close the gates after you – **it's the law. Failure to shut and fasten the gates is dangerous and you could be prosecuted.**

Special Tips for Truck Drivers

- Turn off the radio.
- Be aware that a train can't stop immediately.
- Be aware that a train weighs much more than a truck.
- Be aware that a train extends over the rails.
- Adapt your driving to weather conditions.
- Be aware of the length of your vehicle.
- Expect a train from either direction.
- State the identification number (crossing number) shown at the railway level crossing.



This identification number is different for each railway crossing

Emergencies at Railway Level Crossings

If an animal strays onto the railway line, or if a pram, wheelchair, bicycle or other vehicle gets stuck on the railway line, you must take the following actions:

- Get clear of the railway, leaving the animal, pram, wheelchair, bicycle or vehicle where it is,
- Move everyone well clear of the railway line,
- Contact Iarnród Éireann using the Freephone number which you will find on the instruction sign at the entrance to the level crossing, say 'This is an Emergency', and
- State the identification number (crossing number) shown at the railway crossing.



This identification number is different for each railway crossing

ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN

CONTACT US

This brochure can be downloaded from our website www.irishrail.ie.

For enquiries regarding the level crossing you use, or reporting damage to a level crossing infrastructure, contact the relevant Infrastructure Manager in your area:

Emergency CTC (Central Traffic Control)
01 855 5454

ATHLONE

Covers the West of the country

090 648 7711

DUBLIN

Covers the North, East and South East of the country

01 703 3651

LIMERICK JUNCTION

Covers the South and South West of the country

062 51083



SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN!

Irish language version of this information safety booklet downloadable from Iarnród Éireann website via QR Code



Iarnród Éireann
Irish Rail

At selected Iarnród Éireann level crossings, this system has been installed. Further details are available by viewing or downloading a booklet from the Iarnród Éireann website (via QR code)



TRAIN DETECTION WARNING SYSTEM

RED
Do Not
Cross

ORANGE
Cross With
Caution



ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN



ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN

STOP CLEAR OF RAILWAY
LEVEL CROSSING

OPEN BOTH GATES BEFORE CROSSING

WHEN THE RAILWAY LINE IS CLEAR,
CROSS QUICKLY

REMEMBER
NEVER EVER STOP ON THE RAILWAY LINE
AND ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN

Emergency CTC (Central Traffic Control)

01 855 5454



- ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN
- CROSS SAFELY
- ALWAYS SHUT THE GATES AFTER YOU



Iarnród Éireann
Irish Rail

