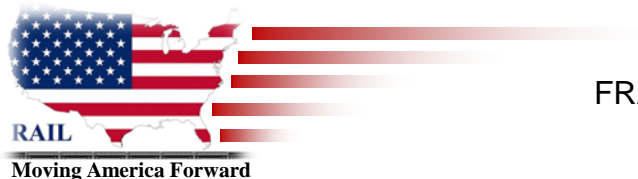


Emergency Notification System (ENS)

49 CFR 234 Subpart E

March 2017



FRA Highway-Rail Crossing & Trespass Programs

4/4/2017



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

What is the ENS?

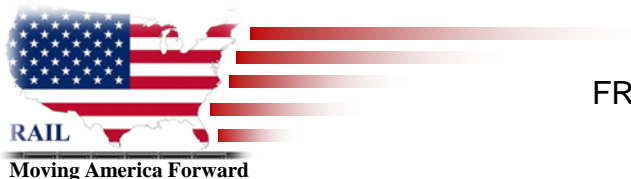
ENS is a system in place by which a railroad receives, processes, and responds to telephonic reports of an unsafe condition at a highway-rail or pathway grade crossing.



What is the ENS?

An Emergency Notification System includes the following components:

- (1) The signs, placed and maintained at the grade crossings that display the information necessary for the public to report an unsafe condition at the grade crossing to the dispatching railroad by telephone;
- (2) The method that the railroad uses to receive and process a telephone call reporting the unsafe condition;
- (3) The remedial actions that a railroad takes to address the report of the unsafe condition; and
- (4) The recordkeeping conducted by a railroad in response to the report of the unsafe condition at the grade crossing.



ENS Timeline

- **Final Rule**

Issued June 12, 2012

- **Revised Final Rule**

Issued March 15, 2013

- **Compliance Manual**

Draft complete, Under review by RCC

ENS Compliance Dates

- Must have ENS System in place by:
 - Sept 1, 2015 for railroads without any ENS
 - March 1, 2014 for railroad with a nonconforming ENS
- Various ENS sign compliance dates under 49 CFR 234.317(c) and (d)

Where is the ENS applicable?

All at-grade crossing

- Public Crossings
- Private Crossings
- Pathway Crossing



1. ENS Signs

§234.309 ENS sign must contain:

1. Toll Free Number (some exceptions for Class II and III railroads)
2. Explanation of the purpose of the sign (e.g. “For Emergency or Problem ____)
3. The USDOT National Crossing Inventory Number

1. ENS Signs

§234.309 ENS Requirements:

- Must be retroreflective
- One inch minimum character height
- White text on a blue background with a white border (except for the DOT Crossing Number, which can be black text on a white background)



1. ENS Signs



1. ENS Signs

§234.309 Sign Orientation

- Parallel to the road or perpendicular to the road?

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§234.309 Sign Orientation

- Parallel to the road or perpendicular to the road?
 - No formal requirement on sign orientation at this time

1. ENS Signs

§234.309 Sign Orientation

- No formal requirement on sign orientation at this time
 - Must be conspicuous to the roadway or pathway user
 - Does not obstruct other signs or warning devices
 - Does not limit view of approaching train
 - If mounted on a post, it must have breakaway supports

1. ENS Signs

§234.301 Definitions

- **Farm grade crossing** means a type of highway-rail grade crossing where a private roadway used for the movement of farm motor vehicles, farm machinery, or livestock in connection with agricultural pursuits, forestry, or other land-productive purposes crosses one or more railroad tracks at grade.

1. ENS Signs

Signs placed on bungalows do not meet the requirement of this section



1. ENS Signs

Damaged, Missing, or Unusable signs must be replaced within 30 days of discovery



1. ENS Signs

Inspection Guidance:

- Inspectors should be on the lookout for crossings without signs
- Inspectors should verify the USDOT Crossing Number matches the Inventory Record (through the crossing app on the phone, or looking at the Inventory database)

1. ENS Signs

Inspection Guidance:

- Inspectors should determine if the sign includes all the required information, meets the minimum size and colors, and the text meets the minimum height

1. ENS Signs

Inspection Guidance:

- Inspectors should determine if the sign orientation meets the requirement (for instance, does it block any other signs or warning devices? Or is it located on a bungalow? Does the post have breakaway supports?)

1. ENS Signs

Inspection Guidance:

- Inspectors could look at a yard or port area to see if each vehicular entrance has a sign
- Inspectors should also make sure there is only one ENS sign where multiple railroads operate over one crossing

Questions???



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