
Recommended Guidelines for the Application of Fixed Signals

Revised 2025 (2 Pages)

A. Purpose

This Manual Part recommends guidelines for applying fixed signals.

B. General

Each roadway signal shall be positioned and aligned so that its aspects can be clearly associated with the track it governs. Care shall be taken to mitigate railroad non-signal light sources from interfering with the interpretation of signal aspects.

C. Installation Guidelines

Aspects shall be shown by the color of lights, position of lights, flashing of lights, or any combination thereof. They may be qualified by marker plate, number plate, letter plate, marker light, shape and color, or any combination thereof, subject to the following conditions:

1. Night aspects of roadway signals, except qualifying appurtenances, shall be shown by lights. A single white light shall not be used.
2. The fundamental indications of signal aspects shall conform to the following:
 - a. A red light or a series of horizontal lights shall be used to indicate Stop.
 - b. A yellow light, a lunar light, or a series of lights in the upper or lower quadrant at an angle of approximately 45 ° to the vertical, shall be used to indicate that speed is to be restricted and a stop may be required ahead.
 - c. A green light, or a series of vertical lights, shall be used to indicate Proceed at Authorized Speed.
 - d. The names, indications, and aspects of roadway signals shall be defined in the railroad's Operating Rule Book or Special Instructions.

D. Location

1. Each roadway signal shall be located with respect to the next signal or signals in advance which govern train movements in the same direction so that the indication of a signal displaying a restrictive aspect can be complied with by means of a brake application, other than an emergency application initiated at such signal, either by stopping at the signal where a stop is required, or by a reduction in speed to the rate prescribed by the next signal in advance where reduced speed is required.

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2. New or relocated signals, when possible, should be placed at locations which allow crews on approaching trains to view them for appropriate distance.

E. Lamp or LED Failure

The failure of a single lamp or LED in a light signal shall not cause that signal to display a more favorable aspect than intended. When signal aspects are qualified by marker plates, number plates, letter plates, etc., and such appurtenances are obscured or absent, a less restrictive aspect shall not result.

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