

What if you are exceeding 59 MPH, when will you start whistling?

You still start ¼ mile from the crossing, the normal location of the crossing sign, this will be slightly less than the 15 seconds but the new regulation prohibits sounding the whistle more than ¼ mile in advance of a public crossing. The logic from the FRA is that any whistle sound farther than ¼ mile would not be heard and would not provide warning.

Do you still need to use the same whistle sequence?

Remember the same whistle sequence must be used. The sequence may be prolonged or repeated to ensure the whistle is sounded at least 15 seconds before the crossing and continued until the crossing is occupied. The whistle sequence is also part of the federal regulation.

What if you see on track workers near the crossing, what whistle signal should you use?

Always use 5.8.2 (7) when approaching public crossings, this will also provide warning to the on track workers in the area as you approach. After occupying the crossing, if the on track workers are at the crossing and beyond, you will start whistling the two shorts, 5.8.2 (4), until the head of the train has passed the workers. If the track workers are all beyond the crossing 5.8.2 (8) should be used after the crossing is occupied.

EXPLORE ACTIONS:

How can I comply? Let's look at the chart in your hand out, which may help.

**Train Horn Rule
Delay after Passing Whistle Post Located ¼-mile in Advance of Crossing
to Achieve 20-Second Whistle Duration**

Train Speed	Delay after Passing Whistle Post
40 mph	3 seconds
35 mph	6 seconds
30 mph	10 seconds
25 mph	16 seconds
20 mph	25 seconds
15 mph	40 seconds
10 mph	70 seconds

Trains exceeding 45 MPH will start whistling at the crossing sign.

I'm approaching a crossing at 30 mph, and start blowing the horn at a point I think is 15-20 seconds in advance of the crossing. However, I didn't time it right. I've been sounding the horn for 20 seconds and I still haven't reached the crossing. Should I stop sounding the horn at 20 seconds?

No. Once you have begun sounding the horn for a crossing, you should prolong or repeat the normal grade crossing horn sequence until the locomotive has occupied the crossing, even if it results in sounding the horn more than 20 seconds. Always sound the whistle until the train occupies the crossing.

If I'm traveling 45 mph, when do I start the whistle signal?

Start whistling ¼ mile from the crossing, at or about the normal location of the crossing sign, this will meet the 15 to 20 second time frame.

Your train has stopped very close to the crossing, 30 feet to be exact. What is the correct procedure for sounding the whistle?

You must begin sounding the whistle, even before moving if necessary to provide a minimum of 15 seconds of warning.

How will this change Item 9 in System Special Instructions?

This does not change Item 9. You must continue to whistle in quiet zones when required by other rules or when safety is involved.

ITEM 9: USE OF ENGINE HORNS

Do not sound the horn within the city limits at points designated by the symbol (9) on the subdivision page. However, this does not apply when:

- Employees are working on or near the track.
- Necessary to warn persons or vehicles oblivious to the approach of the train or engine whose attention cannot be attracted by ringing the bell.

SUMMARY:

The new rule and regulation requires the whistle to be sounded at least 15 seconds but not more than 20 seconds before the train enters public crossings with one exception. Trains moving above 45 MPH will start whistling ¼ mile from the crossing, the normal location of the crossing sign, this will meet the 15 to 20 second time frame. When exceeding 59 MPH still start sounding the whistle ¼ mile from the crossing, the normal location of the crossing sign, this will be slightly less than the 15 seconds but the new regulation prohibits sounding the whistle more than ¼ mile in advance of a public crossing. Item 9 of System Special Instructions is not changed.