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Pedestrian crossings – requirements

The safe and efficient operation of pedestrian crossings they be installed correctly. This note has been developed to highlight requirements for pedestrian crossings in the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004 (the TCD Rule) including its amendments.

The TCD Rule requires pedestrian crossings to have the following components:

- a speed limit no more than 50km/h (unless NZTA approval is obtained)
- zebra markings in reflectorised white marked on, and contrasting with, the roadway and conforming to specifications in schedule 2 of the rule
- must not (exceed 15 metres from one side of the roadway to the other side unless interrupted by a traffic island (although good engineering practice suggests the width be no more than 10 metres but this could not be made mandatory under rule making procedures)
- be at right angles to the road centreline or to provide the most convenient route
- all of the crossing must be 'visible'¹ for an driver approaching from any direction from a safe stopping distance
- black and white posts at each end of the crossing and on a traffic island which separates two pedestrian crossings (the need for a pole or poles was implicit in previous legislation but more explicit in the rule because of the changed road user rule regarding giving way to pedestrians)
- on each black and white pole a Belisha beacon or fluorescent Belisha beacon disc
- must have where practicable, a limit line not less than 300mm wide and five metres from the pedestrian crossing in advance of the crossing
- a pedestrian crossing warning sign on each approach to the pedestrian crossing.

¹ The following definitions appear in the TCD Rule:

visible means able to be seen from a **safe stopping distance**

safe stopping distance means the minimum distance required for a driver of **normal vision** travelling at a safe operating speed for the road to recognise a hazard and decelerate with **normal braking** to stop completely before reaching the hazard

normal vision means the visual acuity required of a person to obtain and hold a driver licence, in accordance with the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999

normal braking means the level of braking applied to a vehicle that does not lock any of the vehicle's wheels and permits the vehicle to decelerate without adverse directional control.

The road controlling authority (RCA) has discretion in relation to two requirements:

- a white diamond pavement marking at least 50 metres in advance of the crossing, and
- illumination of the crossing may be dispensed with if the RCA considers the crossing will not generally be used at night.

Any crossing not meeting the requirements described above makes enforcement of road user obligations extremely difficult by providing a technical defence to an errant road user.

If the RCA is unsure whether all of the pedestrian crossings under its jurisdiction conform to the legislation, it is recommended a review of those pedestrian crossings be undertaken.

Like all traffic control devices, the planning, design, installation and operation of pedestrian facilities need to be undertaken under the supervision of a person with expertise in the area of traffic engineering.