

## CHAPTER 7D. CROSSING SUPERVISION

### Section 7D.01 Types of Crossing Supervision

Support:

- 01 There are three types of school crossing supervision:
- A. Adult control of pedestrians and vehicles by adult crossing guards,
  - B. Adult control of pedestrians and vehicles by uniformed law enforcement officers, and
  - C. Student and/or parent control of only pedestrians with student and/or parent patrols.
- 02 Information regarding the organization, administration, and operation of a school safety patrol program is contained in the “AAA School Safety Patrol Operations Manual” (see Section 1A.11).

### Section 7D.02 Adult Crossing Guards

Option:

- 01 Adult crossing guards may be used to provide gaps in traffic at school crossings where an engineering study has shown that adequate gaps need to be created (see Section 7A.03), and where authorized by law.

### Section 7D.03 Qualifications of Adult Crossing Guards

Support:

- 01 High standards for selection of adult crossing guards are essential because they are responsible for the safety of and the efficient crossing of the street by schoolchildren within and in the immediate vicinity of school crosswalks.

Guidance:

- 02 *Adult crossing guards should possess the following minimum qualifications:*
- A. *Average intelligence;*
  - B. *Good physical condition, including sight, hearing, and ability to move and maneuver quickly in order to avoid danger from errant vehicles;*
  - C. *Ability to control a STOP paddle effectively to provide approaching road users with a clear, fully direct view of the paddle’s STOP message during the entire crossing movement;*
  - D. *Ability to communicate specific instructions clearly, firmly, and courteously;*
  - E. *Ability to recognize potentially dangerous traffic situations and warn and manage students in sufficient time to avoid injury.*
  - F. *Mental alertness;*
  - G. *Neat appearance;*
  - H. *Good character;*
  - I. *Dependability; and*
  - J. *An overall sense of responsibility for the safety of students.*

### Section 7D.04 Uniform of Adult Crossing Guards

Standard:

- 01 **Law enforcement officers performing school crossing supervision and adult crossing guards shall wear high-visibility retroreflective safety apparel labeled as ANSI 107-2004 standard performance for Class 2 as described in Section 6E.02.**

### Section 7D.05 Operating Procedures for Adult Crossing Guards

Support:

- 00a Maryland law authorized school crossing guards, who meet the qualifications prescribed in MVL TR §21-107, to stop and otherwise direct vehicles and pedestrians on a highway or school grounds to assist pedestrians at a school crossing and school vehicles in entering and leaving school grounds.

Standard:

- 01 **Except as noted in Support above, adult crossing guards shall not direct traffic in the usual law enforcement regulatory sense. In the control of traffic, they shall pick opportune times to create a sufficient gap in the traffic flow. At these times, they shall stand in the roadway to indicate that pedestrians are about to use or are using the crosswalk, and that all vehicular traffic must stop.**
- 02 **Adult crossing guards shall use a STOP paddle. The STOP paddle shall be the primary hand-signaling device.**

- 03 **The STOP (R1-1) paddle shall be an octagonal shape. The background of the STOP face shall be red with at least 6-inch series upper-case white letters and border. The paddle shall be at least 18 inches in size and have the word message STOP on both sides. The paddle shall be retroreflectorized or illuminated when used during hours of darkness.**

Option:

- 04 The STOP paddle may be modified to improve conspicuity by incorporating white or red flashing lights on both sides of the paddle. Among the types of flashing lights that may be used are individual LEDs or groups of LEDs.
- 05 The white or red flashing lights or LEDs may be arranged in any of the following patterns:
- A. Two white or red lights centered vertically above and below the STOP legend,
  - B. Two white or red lights centered horizontally on each side of the STOP legend,
  - C. One white or red light centered below the STOP legend,
  - D. A series of eight or more small white or red lights having a diameter of 1/4 inch or less along the outer edge of the paddle, arranged in an octagonal pattern at the eight corners of the STOP paddle (more than eight lights may be used only if the arrangement of the lights is such that it clearly conveys the octagonal shape of the STOP paddle), or
  - E. A series of white lights forming the shapes of the letters in the legend.

**Standard:**

- 06 **If flashing lights are used on the STOP paddle, the flash rate shall be at least 50, but no more than 60, flash periods per minute.**

#### **Section 7D.06 Flag-In-The-Air (FITA)**

Support:

- 01a Where adult school crossing guards are stationed at a school crossing, the conditions may be such so as to restrict the conspicuity of the school crossing guard when the guard is assisting students crossing the roadway.

*Guidance:*

- 01b *For supervised school crossings at roadways having high traffic speed, more than two traffic lanes, poor alignment with restricted sight distance, or other conditions that may hinder the visibility of the school crossing guard and STOP paddle, consideration should be given to the use of an overhead Warning Beacon (FITA) for providing the desired warning of the guard's presence.*

Support:

- 01c Guidelines for FITA use may be obtained from the Maryland State Highway Administration's Office of Traffic & Safety, Traffic Development & Support Division (TDSD) at the address shown on Page i.

**Standard:**

- 01d **FITA use shall comply with the provision for Warning Beacon described in Section 4L.03.**

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