



Stock Crossing Guidelines

These guidelines set out options that can be used at stock crossing points to promote the safety of other road users and reduce effluent on the road. Some of these will be compulsory.

Ideally, underpasses are the best option. Although they may be an expense in the short-term, long-term benefits are that stock are less stressed and can walk down the race without having to be supervised at the road crossing. This saves time and staff resources.

Further information on the underpass options can be obtained by contacting the Council on 06 374 4080 or 06 374 5341.

Traffic Safety: Compulsory Requirements

Warning Signs

Warning signs are essential for the safety of the farm worker, stock, and the unsuspecting motorist.

At any stock crossing point, permanent fold-down warning signs to the approaching crossing must be installed. The approved sign is a TW6A folding type, and they are 750mm x 750mm in size with an orange background and black symbol, attached to a white-painted post.

Motorists often ignore stock movement signs because farmers are not closing signs when crossings are not in use. All signs must be folded closed when not in use.

On all arterial roads, Tararua Alliance will co-ordinate the purchasing and installation of the signs and posts with their road maintenance contractor. These costs will then be passed on to the consent holder.

On other roads applicants may go through Council for the purchase and installation of the signs as above or they may arrange to erect the sign themselves at points specified by Tararua Alliance staff. The placement of these signs will be determined by the traffic speed environment and visibility of the stock crossing.

Safety Vests

All people assisting with stock crossings are advised to wear New Zealand Standard safety approved orange vests when working on the roadway.

Traffic Safety: Other Requirements

The following options may be adopted:

Warning Devices



Warning devices such as a flashing amber light may be required at the crossing point. The light should be permanently fixed at a height that enables a minimum safe visibility distance to be achieved from both directions. Flashing lights are very likely to be required on arterial routes.

Crossing Methods

All stock should be driven across the road in one movement, under the supervision of a responsible person.

Use of Tapes

If tapes are used, these must be maintained at a height not exceeding 100mm above the surface of the road and removed immediately after each use. Traffic safety requirements for each site shall be discussed with Tararua Alliance.

Methods to Address Excrement on the Roads

The person who is responsible for the stock crossing will be responsible for ensuring effluent excreted or carried onto the road is removed immediately after each stock crossing.

Stock Crossing Mat

The use of crossing mats is highly recommended. Using a stock crossing mat will avoid effluent contaminating the road surface. The mat is made of durable material and is easily rolled across the road when the stock is crossing.

These mats have had positive feedback from farmers who are using them.

Washing Road

Washing the road surface after stock crossing will be an appropriate option in some circumstances. Wash-down should be done immediately following each crossing.

In some situations, the discharge from wash-downs may require a discharge permit from Horizons Regional Council. This will be dependent on volumes and the nature of the receiving environment.

For further information please contact the Tararua District Council on 06 374 4080 or 06 374 5341.