



PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

As with all with all other types of hazards how well you execute the task will depend on the planning and preparation of your approach to the crossings.

The preparation should be carried out as early as possible and visual scan should be made for all types of crossings when approaching areas of pedestrian traffic, for example near shops, train and underground stations, schools and public parks.

Zig zag lines are placed before and after all type of crossings to protect the crossing. There are two rules drivers' should never break within the zig zag lines, these are:

- **Do not park.** As this will obscure the view of oncoming traffic when approaching the crossing.
- **Do not overtake.** A driver should never overtake within the zig zag lines, as this will endanger the pedestrian who is on the crossing.

Do not block the crossing area If you are waiting in a queue of traffic you must keep the crossing area clear.

It's also a good idea not to park just before or just after the crossing as this could obscure the view of both drivers' and pedestrians. The photograph illustrates this point.

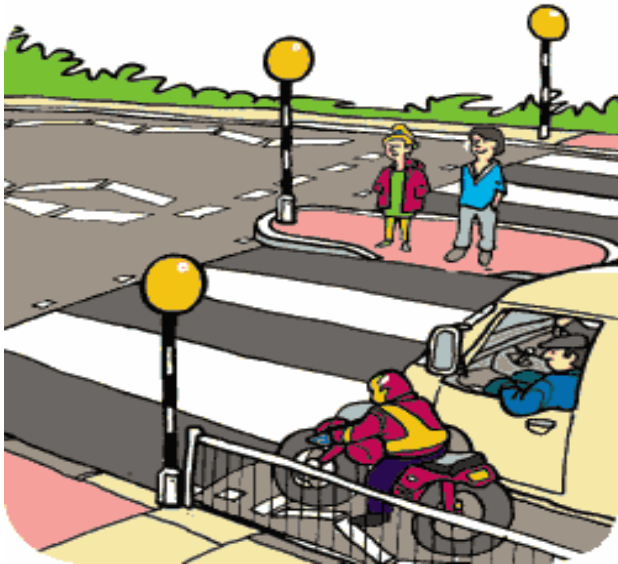
When crossings are located in particularly hazards area there will be road signs and road markings preceding the crossings.



Zebra crossings

The law states that a pedestrian always has the right of way on a zebra crossing. This means that once a person has stepped on to a crossing the driver must give way even if the person is on the other side of the road and continue to wait until the person has walked off the crossing. This applies even if they are walking away from you.

Crossings with central refuge in the middle can be treated as to separate crossings and if someone steps out on the other half you may continue, however you must watch out for anyone nearing the central reservation as pedestrians will automatically assume that because they are using the crossing or are about to cross, that the traffic will slow down and stop. They may not even check to see if the traffic is prepared to give way to them. Speed on approach to the crossing coupled with good early observations is essential.



A Zebra crossing is recognized by the following characteristics:

Black and white markings on the road.

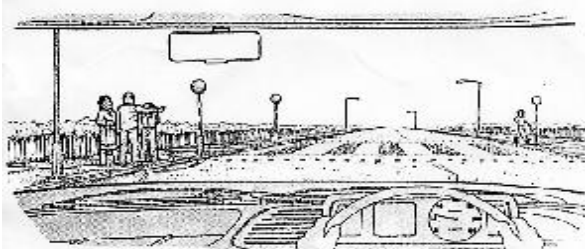
Black and white poles with a flashing yellow beacons. (Belisha beacons)

White zig zag lines before and after the crossing.

A give-way line, which is about a metre or three feet from the crossing.



The above situation is fairly straight forward if driver has a good view on the approach to the crossing. What if the crossing was obscured by another vehicle or building, in such situations be extra vigilant when approaching a crossing and your view is obscured.



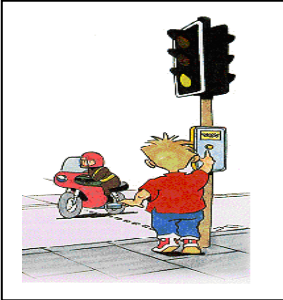
Courtesy

Be prepared to pull up if someone is standing next to a crossing and it's obvious they want to cross the road. Never wave pedestrians across the road as other vehicles may not be so willing to allow them to cross.



When you are waiting for the pedestrians to cross the road never "rev" your engine. Imagine the pedestrians being very young or elderly, "revving" your engine could give them a fright and force them to hurry across the road. Show some patience and you will be appreciated by the pedestrians who have crossed the road with a smile or a wave.

Controlled crossings



Controlled crossings are traffic light controlled and will only change if someone presses the button, which is located on the side of the traffic light pole. Whereas normal traffic lights will change on an automatic sequence. However, normal traffic lights will occasionally also have a button on the side of the pole which allows pedestrians to request the lights to change, but they will still change at their predetermined timings according to their program

Two other features separate the pedestrian crossings from the normal traffic light.

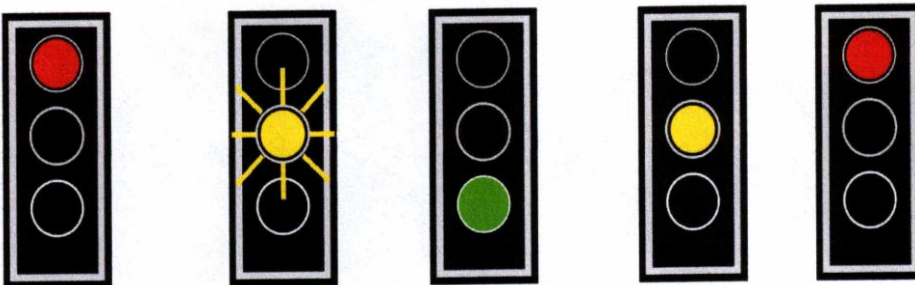
1. Zig zag lines.
2. The sequence of lights.

Zig zag lines are used on the following crossings:

- Zebra Crossing.
- Pelican crossing
- Toucan Crossing.
- Puffin Crossing.



Sequence of Lights at pelican Crossings.



- Red means stop.
- Flashing amber means if pedestrians are not crossing you may proceed; you do not have to stop for people waiting on the pavement to cross.
- Green mean go only if your way is clear and you are not going to block the crossing
- Amber means you must stop before the stop line but you continue if there is a risk of collision from the rear.



Approaching a Pelican Crossing

Use your MSM routine in good time and slow down to let the pedestrians cross safely to the other side of the road. Remembering not to "rev" your engine while you wait for them to cross, as this could cause the pedestrians to hurry across the road.

If the crossing is clear and the flashing amber light appears, you may proceed. However, ensure that the pedestrian doesn't change their mind and double back across the crossing!

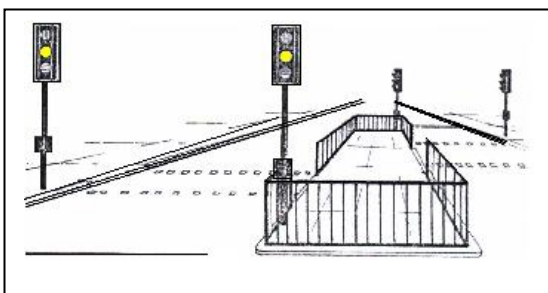
When approaching a pelican crossing and the Pelican has just changed from Red to the flashing amber, keep checking to see that the crossing is clear before committing your self to driving through the crossing. Pedestrians such as the young, elderly or the infirm may take longer to cross the road and may still be on the crossing even when the lights have changed to Green.

Like the Zebra Crossing the Pelican Crossing has two variations:

- The straight crossing.
- The staggered crossing.

The Straight Crossing

When crossing goes straight across the road and has a central island. This type of crossing should be seen as one crossing. Unlike a Zebra Crossing, this would be classed as two separate crossings when it has a central island.



The Staggered Crossing

When pelican crossings incorporate a central island but both side of the crossing are not in line. The crossings are classed as being two separate crossings. As the lights on either side of the road will work independently of each other.

As mentioned above pelican crossings will only change if someone has pressed the button. However, be careful when approaching a Pelican crossing as there maybe no one around as you approach the crossing but someone may have pressed the button and crossed before the lights have changed. Never trust a Green light, as they have a nasty habit of changing colour when you least expect it! Always approach Green lights with caution and never try to beat the lights by accelerating towards them.

Toucan crossing & Puffin crossings

The Toucan crossing is a crossing that allows pedestrians and cyclists to use the crossing at the same time.

If a cyclist wishes to use any other type of crossing, that is Zebra, Pelican and Puffin. They must dismount from their bicycle and then use the crossing. However, on a Toucan crossing they can ride across with pedestrians walking. "Two-can cross" is one way of remembering what a Toucan crossing is for. Pedestrians and cyclists can use the crossing together.



As we can see in the photograph the pedestrians and cyclists will get the Green light together when it is safe to cross the road.

Electronic Scanner

The electronic scanner scans the crossing to see if anyone is standing next to or is already on the crossing. This facility helps to keep the flow of traffic moving by keeping the lights on Green if someone presses the button and either walks away or crosses the road before the lights have changed to Red. On the other hand if the pedestrians cross the road fairly quickly the lights will change to Green and again this should minimize the disruption to the flow of traffic. Whereas a Pelican crossing has a set Red light sequence.

By the same token, the scanner will keep the lights on Red as long as someone is still crossing the road. This is a useful facility for certain types of pedestrians such as the elderly, the young and the infirm, who may need more time to cross the road. Because the Puffin has this fun The Puffin crossing is another variation on the Toucan crossing in that it incorporates an electronic scanner to monitor the crossing.

Puffin Crossings

The word Puffin stands for **P**edestrian **U**ser **F**riendly **I**ntelligent crossing. There is no flashing amber in the sequence of lights.

Puffin crossings are another variation of the toucan crossing its operation and usage are similar but cyclists are required to dismount when using the crossing.

The important point to remember when approaching any pedestrian crossing is to approach with caution and scan either side of the crossing for pedestrians who are either walking up to or are waiting at the side of the road to use the crossing. Your speed on the approach to the crossing should be such that you can pull up safely and under full control.

Never "rev" your engine when pedestrians are on the crossing as this could frighten them and cause the pedestrians to hurry across the road. Patience is a virtue! 🚦