



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Date: November 21, 1996

Reply to Attn of: S-96-06

Subject: Manually Operated Warning Systems

(Original Signed by E. R. English)

From: E. R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: All Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators, S&TC Specialists and
S&TC
Inspectors

The S&TC Technical Resolution Committee meeting held in Portland, Oregon the week of July 22, 1996, acted on a request for the application, interpretation, and enforcement of the requirement of Part 234 as it applies to manually operated warning systems.

The consensus of the committee was that components of manually operated warning systems should be covered by appropriate, corresponding rules. When a warning system is activated the public is not aware of how it is activated. It is essential that they receive the same level of safety from both automatic or manually operated crossings. The following sentence will be added to the Part 234 Grade Crossing Signal System Safety Manual:

“When a manually operated grade crossing signal system contains components covered by Part 234, those components shall comply with the requirements of that part.”

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