


|   |                                     |               |                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>SNOWMOBILE<br/>CROSSING SIGN</b> |               | Issued: OCT 2006  |
|   |                                     |               | Revised: MAR 2008 |
|   |                                     |               | Page 1 of 3       |
| <b>RECOMMENDED<br/>PRACTICES</b>  | PART                                | HIGHWAY SIGNS |                   |
|   | SECTION                             | WARNING SIGNS |                   |
|   | SUB-SECTION                         |               |                   |

### General

The use of snowmobiles for recreational or general transportation purposes is popular in Alberta.

Provincial interest groups and snowmobile clubs try to ensure that snowmobile users receive sufficient educational information about safe riding practices along the trails, particularly if these trails follow or cross public roads.

The operation of snowmobiles in Alberta is regulated through legislation in the Traffic Safety Act, Part 6 *Off-Highway Vehicles*, sections 117 through 129. The Act stipulates that snowmobiles are not permitted to operate along a highway or any portion of a highway except in situations where a snowmobile must cross a highway.

Based on the Act, operators wanting to cross a highway must stop their snowmobile, dismount passengers and yield to the oncoming traffic before completing their crossing maneuver using the most direct route.

If the visibility of an existing highway crossing is limited, it may be prudent to warn motorists of the frequent snowmobile maneuvers ahead by installing a Snowmobile Crossing sign.

### Standard

A standard Snowmobile Crossing (WC-10) sign consists of a black snowmobile silhouette on a yellow background.



|                 |                                 |                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>WC-10</b>    | <b>750 mm x 750 mm</b>          |                 |
| <b>Colour</b>   | Symbol and border<br>Background | Black<br>Yellow |
| <b>Sheeting</b> | ASTM Type III or IV             |                 |

The standard size of a Snowmobile Crossing sign is 750 mm x 750 mm.

The educational Snowmobile Crossing tab sign, WC-10-T, may be attached below the Snowmobile Crossing sign to communicate in words the meaning of the symbol. An educational tab sign is normally needed when a new sign is first introduced in an area.



|                 |                                 |                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>WC-10-T</b>  | <b>600 mm x 300 mm</b>          |                 |
| <b>Colour</b>   | Symbol and Border<br>Background | Black<br>Yellow |
| <b>Sheeting</b> | ASTM Type III or IV             |                 |

### Guidelines For Use

Snowmobile crossings on freeways, expressways, multi-lane divided and undivided highways, and high volume, two-lane highways are not allowed.

Under the Traffic Safety Act, snowmobile operators must yield to the highway traffic and generally there is no need to inform the motoring public about these maneuvers, unless an operational or safety concern exists.

The Snowmobile Crossing sign is installed in advance of a designated point on a highway where snowmobiles are allowed to cross.

The following specific criteria may be utilized when assessing the need for a Snowmobile Crossing sign (all criteria must be met):

- a snowmobile trail crosses a provincial highway and the trail is a designated snowmobile route (as recognized and approved by Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture or a local

authority).

- snowmobile crossing maneuvers are frequent and unexpected and/or the physical conditions of the crossing present an unusual degree of hazard to motorist and snowmobile traffic (i.e., inadequate sight triangle, sight distance restrictions, etc.).
- operation of the crossing is a safety concern, as indicated by collision history, stakeholder input or a regional assessment.

Requests to install a Snowmobile Crossing sign are usually initiated by local stakeholder groups who are familiar with snowmobile activities in the area and concerned with safety at the crossing.

Such requests are submitted to one of the Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation district offices for review. A listing of district offices can be found on the following web page:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType329/Production/distaddress.pdf>

During the review, a regional or district officer should conduct a brief assessment of the operational, geometric and environmental conditions of the crossing.

Factors to consider during the assessment include:

- location of the crossing (mid-block, intersection crossing)
- frequency of snowmobile crossing maneuvers
- traffic volumes on the highway, availability of the gaps
- existing operational conditions of the trail

approaches and the trail crossing (this includes checking if the trail approaches and the crossing itself are properly signed)

- existing geometric conditions of the trail approaches to a highway (i.e. is the highway visible by the approaching snowmobile operator, is the crossing safe and designed to adequate standards
- safety problems (as reported by local police or local groups)

Warning signs are usually not required if the snowmobile crossing maneuvers occur at existing intersections.

**Guidelines for Placement**

The Snowmobile Crossing sign should be placed a distance of 200 metres to 300 metres in advance of the crossing, in accordance with the Recommended Practices Placement of Signs guideline. Signs are normally provided for both directions of travel.

The Snowmobile Crossing sign is installed on the right-hand side of the highway.

**Safety Issues**

Snowmobile crossings on provincial highways should be discouraged unless they are absolutely necessary. Alternate arrangements should be considered to eliminate the need for a crossing on a provincial highway (i.e., use of existing intersections, relocation of the crossing to a local low volume, low speed road, etc).

It is important to provide adequate warning signs along the snowmobile trails in advance of the highway the trail crosses. Such advance signage will help snowmobile operators to react and slow down when approaching the highway.

Physical conditions of snowmobile crossings should always be assessed to determine if any improvements are required (i.e., clearing obstacles within the sight triangle, improving the geometry of the trail approaches, or if the site conditions are particularly severe, relocating the crossing to a location with better visibility).

**References to Standards**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p><i>Recommended Practices</i><br/>Section: General</p> | <p>Placement of Signs</p> |
|--|---------------------------|