

CHAPTER 313
Traffic Control Devices

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CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law

Designation of through streets or stop intersections - see Ohio R.C. 4511.07(F), 4511.65

Uniform system of traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.09, 4511.11(D)

Placing and maintaining local traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.10, 4511.11

Traffic control devices defined - see TRAF. 301.46

313.01 OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

No pedestrian or driver of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any traffic control device placed in accordance with the provisions of this Traffic Code, unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer. When both traffic control signals and stop signs are erected at intersections, traffic shall be governed by the traffic control signal while it is in operation.

No provisions of this Traffic Code for which signs are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official sign is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section does not state that signs are required, such section shall be effective even though no signs are erected or in place. (ORC 4511.12.)

313.02 THROUGH STREETS; STOP AND YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNS.

(a) All State routes are hereby designated as through streets or highways, provided that stop signs, yield signs or traffic control signals shall be erected at all intersections with such through streets or highways, except as otherwise provided in this Section. Where two (2) or more State routes that are through streets or highways intersect and no traffic control signal is in operation, stop signs or yield

signs shall be erected at one or more entrances thereto by the Ohio Department of Transportation, except as otherwise provided in this Section.

(b) Other streets or highways or portions thereof, are hereby designated through streets or highways, if they are within the Municipality, if they have a continuous length of more than one (1) mile between the limits of such street or highway or portion thereof, and if they have "stop" or "yield" signs or traffic control signals at the entrances of the majority of intersecting streets or highways. For purposes of this Section, the limits of such street or highway or portion thereof, shall be a municipal corporation line, the physical terminus of the street or highway or any point on such street or highway at which vehicular traffic thereon is required by regulatory signs or stop or yield to traffic on the intersecting street, provided that in residence districts the Municipality may erect either stop signs or yield signs at an intersecting street and thereafter designate by ordinance such street or highway or portion thereof not to be a through street or highway. Where two (2) or more streets or highways designated under this Subsection (b) intersect and no traffic control signal is in operation, stop signs or yield signs shall be erected at one (1) or more entrances thereto by the Ohio Department of Transportation or by Council or the authorized local authority, except as otherwise provided in this Section.

(c) Stop signs need not be erected at intersections so constructed as to permit traffic to safely enter a through street or highway without coming to a stop. Signs shall be erected at such intersections indicating that the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to or merge with all traffic proceeding on the through street or highway.

(d) Council or the authorized local authority may designate additional through streets or highways and shall erect stop signs, yield signs or traffic control signals at all streets and highways intersecting such through streets or highways, or may designate any intersection as a stop or yield intersection and shall erect like signs at one (1) or more entrances to such intersection.

(ORC 4511.65.)

313.03 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL TERMS AND LIGHTS.

Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting different colored lights, or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red and yellow shall be used except for special pedestrian signals carrying a word legend. The lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and to pedestrians as follows:

(a) Green Indication:

- (1) Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.
- (2) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another indication, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the same time. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in Section 313.05, pedestrians facing any green signal, except when the sole green signal is a turn arrow may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(b) Steady Yellow Indication:

- (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is thereby warned that the related green movement is being terminated or that a red indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not enter the intersection.
- (2) Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in Section 313.05, are thereby advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown and no pedestrian shall then start to cross the roadway.

(c) Steady Red Indication:

- (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown except as provided in Subsections (c)(2) and (3) hereof.
- (2) Unless a sign is in place prohibiting a right turn as provided in Subsection (c)(5) hereof, vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to make a right turn after stopping as required by Subsection (c)(1) hereof. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

- (3) Unless a sign is in place prohibiting a left turn as provided in Subsection (c)(5) hereof, vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal on a one-way street that intersects another one-way street on which traffic moves to the left may cautiously enter the intersection to make a left turn into the one-way street after stopping as required by Subsection (c)(1) hereof, and yielding the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
- (4) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in Section 313.05, pedestrians facing a steady red signal alone shall not enter the roadway.
- (5) Council may by ordinance, or the authorized local authority may by rule, prohibit a right turn or a left turn against a steady red signal at any intersection, which shall be effective when signs giving notice thereof are posted at the intersection. (See Appendix "A" at the end of this Chapter for applicable intersections.)
(Ord. 98-82. Passed 10-25-82.) (Amended Ord. 51-08. Passed 5-12-08)

(d) Signals; Locations Other Than Intersections:

In the event an official traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this Section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement intersection where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal. (ORC 4511.13.)

313.04 LANE-USE CONTROL SIGNALS OVER INDIVIDUAL LANES.

When lane-use control signals are placed over individual lanes of a street or highway, such signals shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles as follows:

- (a) A Steady Downward Green Arrow: Vehicular traffic may travel in any lane over which a green arrow signal is shown.
- (b) A Steady Yellow "X": Vehicular traffic is warned to vacate in a safe manner any lane over which such signal is shown to avoid occupying that lane when a steady red "X" signal is shown.
- (c) A Flashing Yellow "X": Vehicular traffic may use with proper caution any lane over which such signal is shown for only the purpose of making a left turn.
- (d) A Steady Red "X": Vehicular traffic shall not enter or travel in any lane over which such signal is shown.(ORC 4511.131.)

313.05 MEANING OF PEDESTRIAN INDICATIONS

Whenever special pedestrian signals exhibiting the words "walk" or "don't walk" or the symbol of a walking person or an upraised palm are in place, such signals shall indicate the following instructions:

(a) "Walk" or the symbol of a walking person: Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right of way by the operators of all vehicles, streetcars, and trackless trolleys.

(b) "Don't Walk" or the symbol of an upraised arms: No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal.

In addition to the meaning prescribed in the Ohio Revised Code for a "Don't Walk" indication, a flashing "Don't Walk" indicates that any pedestrian who has partly completed his crossing during the "Walk" indication shall proceed to a sidewalk, or to a safety island. (O.R.C. 4511.14(A), 4511.14(B).

313.06 FLASHING TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow traffic signal is used in a traffic signal or with a traffic sign it shall require obedience as follows:

(a) Flashing Red Stop Signal: Operators of vehicles shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersections, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(b) Flashing Yellow Caution Signal: Operators of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.

This Section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by Ohio R.C. 4511.61 and 4511.12. (ORC 4511.15.)

313.07 UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS AND SIGNALS, HIDING FROM VIEW, ADVERTISING.

(a) No person shall place, maintain or display upon or in view of any street any unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles a traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain, nor shall any public authority permit upon any street any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising. This Section does not prohibit the erection upon private property adjacent to streets of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for traffic control devices.

(b) Every such prohibited sign, signal, marking or device is a public nuisance, and the Police Chief is authorized to remove the same or cause it to be removed. (ORC 4511.16.)

313.08 ALTERATION, INJURY, REMOVAL OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

No person shall without lawful authority attempt to or willfully alter, deface, injure, knock down or remove any traffic control device, any railroad sign or signal, or any inscription, shield or insignia thereon, or any part thereof.

This prohibition includes the driving upon or over any freshly painted center line, lane line, letter, number or symbol on the surface of a roadway while the paint is in an undried condition and is marked by flags, markers, signs or other devices intended to protect it. (ORC 4511.17.)

313.99 PENALTY.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 303.99 for misdemeanor classifications and penalties.)