

6

Signs, Signals and Road Markings

Topics Covered

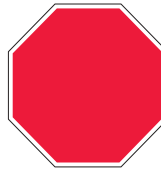
- Signs
 - Regulatory signs
 - School, playground and crosswalk signs
 - Lane use signs
 - Turn control signs
 - Parking signs
 - Reserved lane signs
 - Warning signs
 - Object markers
 - Construction signs
 - Information and destination signs
 - Railway signs
- Signals
 - Lane control signals
 - Traffic lights
- Road Markings
 - Yellow lines
 - White lines
 - Reserved lane markings
 - Other markings

This chapter is a handy reference section that gives examples of the most common signs, signals and road markings that keep traffic organized and flowing smoothly.

Signs

There are three ways to read signs: by their shape, colour and the messages printed on them. Understanding these three ways of classifying signs will help you figure out the meaning of signs that are new to you.

3 - 1



Stop

3 - 2



Yield the right-of-way

3 - 3



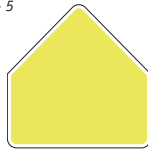
Shows driving regulations

3 - 4



Explains lane use

3 - 5



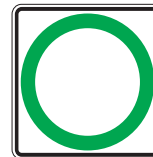
School zone signs are fluorescent yellow-green

3 - 6



Tells about motorist services

3 - 7



Shows a permitted action

3 - 8



Shows an action that is not permitted

3 - 9



Warns of hazards ahead

3 - 10



Warns of construction zones

3 - 11



Railway crossing

3 - 12



Shows distance and direction

Regulatory signs

These signs tell you about driving laws and regulations. It is an offence under the B.C. *Motor Vehicle Act* to disregard them. Drivers who do not follow the instructions on these signs may receive penalties.

3 - 13



Stop completely — continue only when safe

3 - 14



Give the right-of-way to other vehicles and crossing pedestrians

3 - 15



The fastest you may drive in good conditions

3 - 16



Indicates a lower speed limit ahead

3 - 17



Do not enter

3 - 18



Do not go this way — usually mounted on exit ramps

3 - 19



One way — gives direction of traffic on cross street

3 - 20



Stay off this road during major disasters — road may be used only by emergency vehicles

3 - 21



Move into right lane if driving slower than regular traffic

3 - 21 a



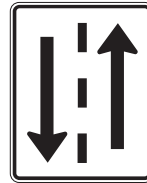
Keep right unless passing

3 - 22



Do not pass

3 - 23



Two-way traffic — keep right unless passing

3 - 24



Keep right of the divider

3 - 25



No stopping between here and the next no-stopping sign

3 - 26



No stopping during posted times between here and the next sign

3 - 27



No bicycle riding beyond this point

3 - 28



No right turn on red light

School, playground and crosswalk signs

These signs tell you the rules to follow in areas where you need to be extra cautious.

3 - 32



School zone — reduce speed when children are present

3 - 36



School zone — if the tab underneath only indicates the speed limit, that limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days

3 - 36 a



School zone — the tab underneath indicates the speed limit and the hours that it is in effect (in this case, the 30 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days)

3 - 35



School zone — 50 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days when children are on the roadway or shoulder

3 - 33



Playground nearby — be prepared to slow down

3 - 34



Playground zone — 30 km/h limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk

3 - 30



Pedestrian crosswalk — yield to people crossing

3 - 31



School crosswalk — yield to pedestrians — if there is a crossing guard, follow directions

3 - 29



Pedestrian activated crosswalk — prepare to stop if the light is flashing

Lane use signs

Signs showing which lanes may be used to turn or go straight are mounted above the lane or at the side of the lane before the intersection. If you are in a designated lane, you must follow the direction indicated by the arrows. You may not move into or out of a designated lane while you are in an intersection.

3 - 37



Turn left only

3 - 38



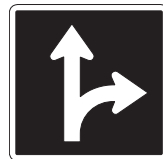
Continue straight only

3 - 39



Go through or turn left

3 - 40



Go through or turn right

3 - 42



Vehicles in both these lanes must turn left

3 - 41



Vehicles from both directions must turn left, no through traffic allowed

Turn control signs

Turn control signs are mounted directly above the intersection. You must follow the direction of the arrow.

3 - 43



Left turn only

3 - 44



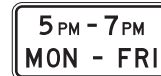
Go straight only — no turns

3 - 45



Turn right or left only

3 - 46



No right turns during posted times

Parking signs

Parking signs let you know where and when you are allowed to park. You may receive fines or your vehicle may be towed (or both) if you park illegally.

3 - 47



Time-limited parking during posted times

3 - 48



Do not park here

3 - 49



Parking is not allowed during posted times

3 - 50



Parking only for vehicles displaying the disabled parking sign and carrying a person with disabilities

Reserved lane signs

A white diamond painted on the road surface marks reserved lanes. Reserved lane signs are also placed over or beside lanes that are reserved for certain vehicles such as buses or high occupancy vehicles (HOVs). Other HOV signs may give additional information on who may use the HOV lane.

3 - 51



Only buses in this lane

3 - 52



Only buses and HOVs in this lane — may show how many people must be in the HOV

3 - 53



Curb lane of cross street ahead is a reserved lane

Warning signs

Most warning signs are yellow and diamond-shaped. They warn of possible hazards ahead.



Winding road ahead



Hidden side road ahead



Sharp curve ahead — slow to suggested speed



Curve ahead — slow down



Merging traffic ahead



Right lane ends ahead



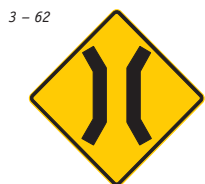
Divided highway ends ahead — keep right



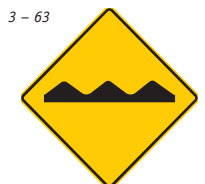
Two-way traffic ahead



Road narrows ahead



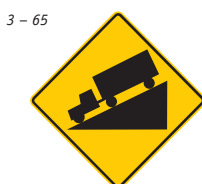
Narrow structure ahead — often a bridge



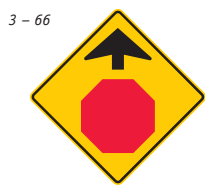
Bump or rough road ahead



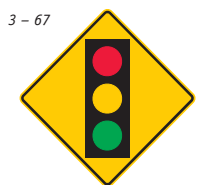
Road may be slippery ahead



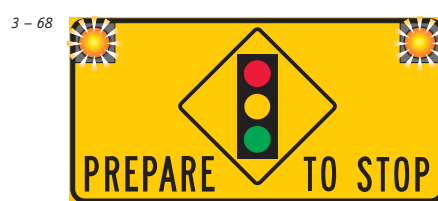
Steep hill ahead — slow down



Stop sign ahead



Signal lights ahead



Signal lights ahead — prepare to stop when lights are flashing



Roundabout ahead

3 - 69



Pedestrian crosswalk ahead

3 - 70



School crosswalk ahead
— this sign is fluorescent yellow-green

3 - 71



School bus stop ahead

3 - 72



Cyclists may be on roadway

3 - 73



Fire truck entrance ahead

3 - 74



Truck crossing ahead

3 - 75



Recommended exit speed
— drive slower in poor conditions

3 - 76



Pavement ends ahead

3 - 77



Hazard or danger ahead
— turn right or left

3 - 78



Watch for deer ahead

3 - 79



Opening bridge ahead

3 - 80



Watch for rocks on the road ahead

Object markers

Pay special attention to object markers – they are mounted on obstructions.

3 - 81



Obstruction — keep right or left

3 - 82



Obstruction — keep right

3 - 83



Obstruction — keep left

Construction signs

These signs warn of construction and maintenance work. You must pay attention to the warnings and obey the instructions on these signs. Obey traffic-control persons, travel within the posted speed, stay well back from all equipment and pass only when it is safe.

3 - 84



Detour ahead

3 - 85



Soft shoulder ahead — stay off

3 - 86



Construction ahead

3 - 87



Traffic-control person ahead

3 - 88



Crew working — obey posted speed limit

3 - 89



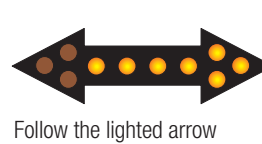
Survey crew — obey posted speed limit

3 - 89a



End of construction zone speed limit

3 - 90



Follow the lighted arrow

3 - 91



Blasting ahead — follow instructions on sign

Information and destination signs

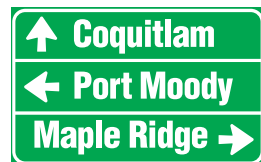
These signs give information about destinations, route numbers and facilities. Here are a few samples.

3 - 92



Destination sign — distances are in kilometres

3 - 93



Directional sign

3 - 94



Trans-Canada Highway route marker

3 - 95



Primary highway marker sign

3 - 96



Hospital nearby

3 - 97



Gas available ahead

3 - 98



Accommodation ahead

3 - 99



Travel information ahead

Railway signs

Public railway and highway crossings are indicated with signs or pavement markings and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices for your protection. Watch for them and remember you must always yield to trains.

3 - 100



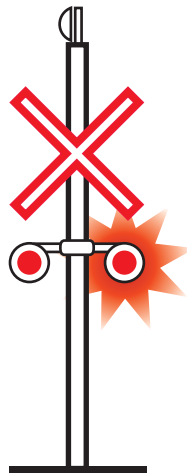
Railway crossing ahead — be prepared to stop

3 - 101



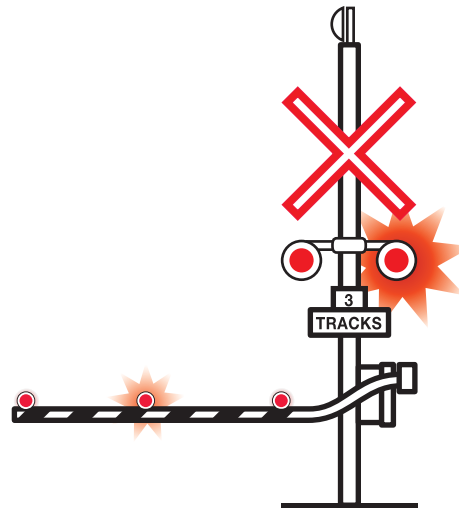
Railway crossing on side road ahead — be prepared to stop

3 - 102



Railway crossing — stop, then proceed when it is safe

3 - 103



Railway crossing — stay stopped until the gate is fully raised

Signals

Lighted signals are a way of controlling traffic flow.

Lane control signals

Lane control signals are placed over lanes to indicate which ones are open for driving.

3 - 104



Do not drive in this lane

3 - 105



Move out of this lane and into a lane with a green arrow. If the lane control signals over all of the lanes are flashing yellow, slow down and proceed with caution

3 - 106

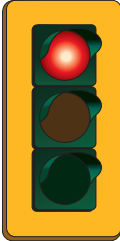


Drive in this lane

Traffic lights

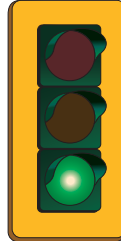
Traffic lights are used to help organize the flow of traffic. Generally, a red light means “stop,” a yellow light means “caution” and a green light means “go.” These signals can have slightly different meanings if they are flashing or if they are shaped as arrows rather than circles. In some places green arrows may flash; in others they may not.

3 - 107



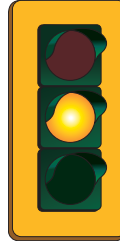
Steady red — stop — after coming to a full stop, you may turn right or turn left onto a one-way street unless a sign forbids it

3 - 108



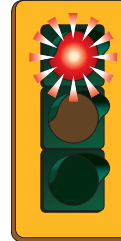
Steady green — continue if the intersection is clear

3 - 109



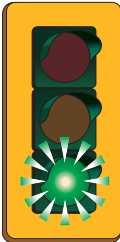
Steady yellow — slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time

3 - 110



Flashing red — stop, then continue only when it is safe

3 - 111



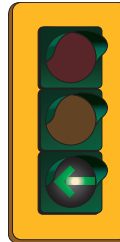
Flashing green — pedestrian-controlled light — go only if the intersection is clear

3 - 112



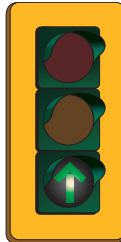
Flashing yellow — slow down and proceed with caution

3 - 113



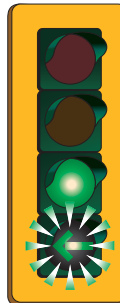
Green arrow — turn in the direction of the arrow

3 - 114



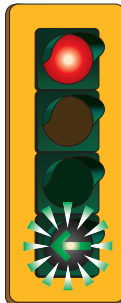
Green arrow — no turn permitted; go straight through only

3 - 115



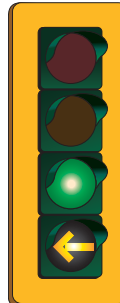
Flashing green arrow with a steady green light — may turn in the direction of the arrow or proceed

3 - 116



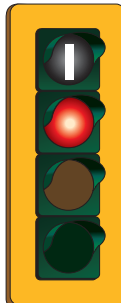
Flashing green arrow with a steady red light — left turn allowed; through traffic must stop for red light

3 - 117



Yellow arrow — advance left turn signal is about to change, slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time

3 - 118



Transit priority signal — steady white rectangular light — only buses may go on this signal

Road Markings

Road markings give you warnings or direction. They are painted on the roadway, curbs or other surfaces. It is illegal to drive over freshly painted, wet pavement markings.

Yellow lines

Yellow lines divide traffic moving in opposite directions. If there is a yellow line to your left, there will be traffic coming towards you on the other side of that yellow line.

3 - 119



Broken line — passing is allowed when safe

3 - 120



Broken line and solid line — you may pass only when it is safe and the broken line is on your side

3 - 121



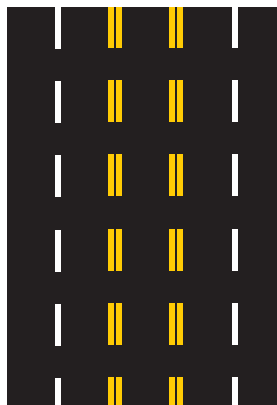
Double solid line — no passing allowed

3 - 122



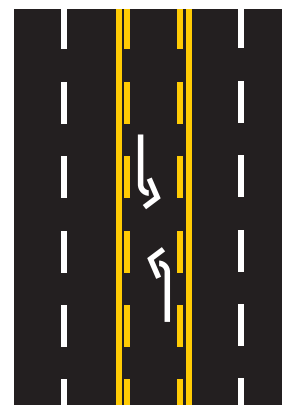
Single yellow line — vehicles travelling in either direction may pass when it is safe

3 - 123



Double broken yellow line — lane is reversible — lane control signal will show whether you may use this lane

3 - 124



Two-way left-turn lane — drivers travelling in opposite directions share this lane for left turns — markings may be reversed (solid lines inside the broken lines)

White lines

White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. White lines also mark crosswalks, stopping positions and the right shoulders of highways.

3 - 125



Solid line — do not change lanes

3 - 126



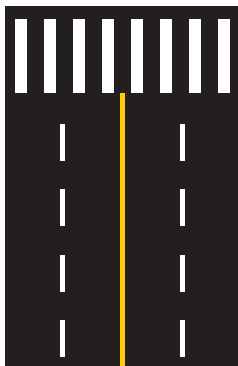
Broken line — lane changing is allowed when safe

3 - 127



Stop line — stop before this line

3 - 128



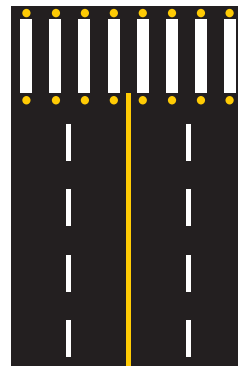
Pedestrian crosswalk — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk

3 - 129



Pedestrian crosswalk — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk

3 - 129 a

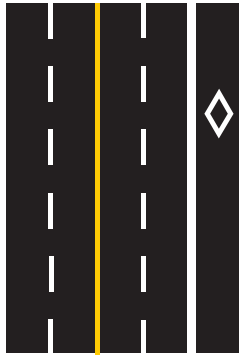


Pedestrian-activated crosswalk with illuminating lights in pavement — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk

Reserved lane markings

These markings set off lanes for HOVs, buses and bicycles. HOV lanes are marked with thick solid or broken lines and white diamond symbols.

3 - 130



Reserved lane — additional signs or markings state which vehicles are allowed

3 - 131



Bicycle lane — for cyclists only — cyclists must travel in the same direction as the traffic beside them — the lane is marked with an outline of a bicycle and sometimes with a diamond

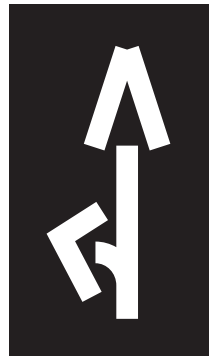
Other markings

3 - 132



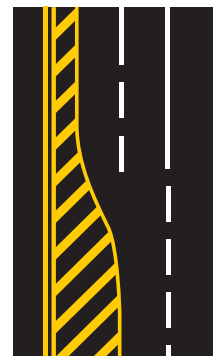
Vehicles in this lane must turn left

3 - 133



Vehicles in this lane must go straight or turn left

3 - 134



Painted island — keep to the right and do not drive on or over

Summary

To safely operate an RV combination, you need a truck that is matched to the demands of your trailer, a trailer that is matched to your truck, and an appropriate coupler. You need to keep both the truck and trailer in good safe operating condition, and conduct pre-trip inspections during your travels.

Make sure the trailer is securely fastened to the truck, the truck and trailer are level, and the weight is properly distributed.

Make sure your mirrors are properly adjusted.

Drive carefully and smoothly, avoiding abrupt steering changes or sudden changes in speed, and carefully maintain proper lane position.

Back up with care. Make sure it is clear before backing up and have someone assist by acting as your guide.

Always remember that you are driving a large RV trailer combination that accelerates, turns and stops differently than a passenger car or pickup truck without a trailer. Look ahead and plan ahead for turns and other movements in traffic.



Review Questions

1. What do you need to consider when selecting a vehicle to tow a recreational trailer?
2. How much of the trailer weight should be on the hitch?
3. What are the advantages of installing convex mirrors below the side mirrors?
4. How do you check that the fifth wheel jaws have locked to the trailer pin?
5. What is the advantage of doing a regular pre-trip vehicle inspection?
6. What safety equipment should you carry when towing an RV?
7. How does towing an RV affect braking and acceleration?
8. What should you do if your trailer whips or swerves?
9. Why is it important for you to know the height, width and weight of the truck and RV?
10. What can cause your trailer to jackknife when you are backing up?

Definitions

Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) – the maximum weight that the manufacturer recommends placing over the axle. Front axles normally have a smaller GAWR than rear axles.

Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) – the recommended maximum total weight of the tow vehicle and trailer including their loads.

Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) – the weight of a vehicle and its load as it sits on the road.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) – the maximum total weight of the vehicle and its load as recommended by the manufacturer.

Load capacity – the weight the vehicle or trailer can carry. It includes the weight of passengers, cargo, and in the case of the truck, the amount of the trailer weight over the truck.

Pin weight – the weight of the trailer that is over the truck. Pin weight is also known as kingpin weight or kingpin load.

Towing capacity – the weight that the truck is capable of towing.

Wheelbase – the distance between the front and rear axles.