

Rules for pedestrians (1 to 35)

Rules for pedestrians, including general guidance, crossing the road, crossings, and situations needing extra care.

General guidance (rules 1 to 6)

Rule 1

Pavements and footways (including any path along the side of a road) should be used if provided. Where possible, avoid being next to the kerb with your back to the traffic. If you have to step into the road, look both ways first. Always remain aware of your environment and avoid unnecessary distractions. Always show due care and consideration for others.



Area marked with black: called kerb

Rule 2

If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and

- be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light
- keep close to the side of the road.

It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.

Rule 3

Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use reflective materials (eg armbands, sashes, waistcoats, jackets, footwear), which can be seen by drivers using headlights up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials.



Rule 4

Young children should not be out alone on the pavement or road (see [Rule 7](#)). When taking children out, keep them between them and the traffic and hold their hands firmly. Strap very young children into pushchairs or use reins. When pushing a young child in a buggy, do not push the buggy into the road when checking to see if it is clear to cross, particularly from between parked vehicles.

Rule 5

Organised walks or parades involving large groups of people walking along a road should use a pavement if available; if one is not available, they should keep to the left. Look-outs should be positioned at the front and back of the group, and they should wear fluorescent clothes in daylight and reflective clothes in the dark. At night, the look-out in front should show a white light and the one at the back a red light. People on the outside of large groups should also carry lights and wear reflective clothing.

Rule 6

Motorways. Pedestrians **MUST NOT** be on motorways or slip roads except in an emergency (see [Rules 272](#) and [277](#)).

Laws [RTRA sect 17](#), [MT\(E&W\)R reg 15\(1\)\(b\)](#) & [MT\(S\)R reg 13](#)

Crossing the road (rules 7 to 17)[Hide](#)

Rule 7

The Green Cross Code. The advice given below on crossing the road is for all pedestrians. Children should be taught the Code and should not be allowed out alone until they can understand and use it properly. The age when they can do this is different for each child. Many children cannot judge how fast vehicles are going or how far away they are. Children learn by example, so parents and carers should always use the Code in full when out with their children. They are responsible for deciding at what age children can use it safely by themselves.

A First find a safe place to cross and where there is space to reach the pavement on the other side. Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. It is safer to cross using a subway, a footbridge, an island, a zebra, pelican, toucan or puffin crossing, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer, a school crossing patrol or a traffic warden. Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Try to avoid crossing between parked cars (see [Rule 14](#)), on a blind bend, or close to the brow of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.



Rule 7: Look all around and listen for traffic before crossing

B Stop just before you get to the kerb, where you can see if anything is coming. Do not get too close to the traffic. If there's no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.

C Look all around for traffic and listen. Traffic could come from any direction. Listen as well, because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.

D If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around again and listen. Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain that there is plenty of time. Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.

E When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run. Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly. Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic. Do not walk diagonally across the road.

Rule 8

At a junction. When you are crossing or waiting to cross the road, other traffic should give way. Look out for traffic turning into the road, especially from behind you, and cross at a place where drivers can see you. If you have started crossing and traffic wants to turn into the road, you have priority and they should give way (see [Rules H2](#) and [170](#)).

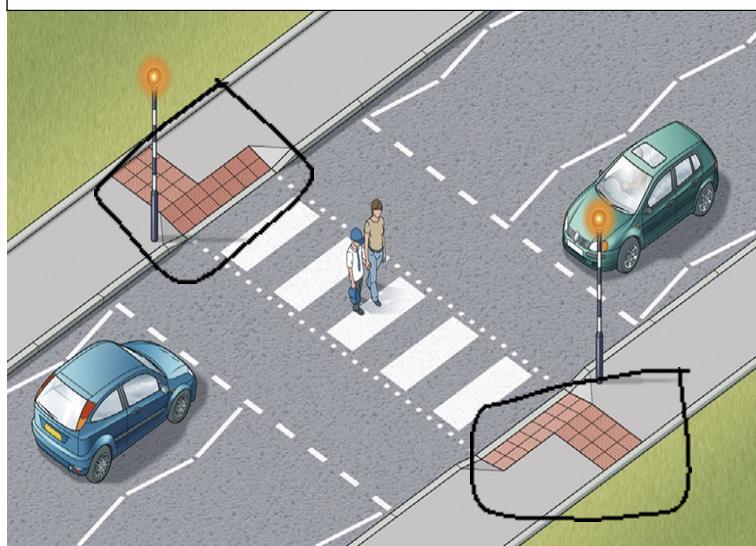
Rule 9

Pedestrian Safety Barriers. Where there are barriers, cross the road only at the gaps provided for pedestrians. Do not climb over the barriers or walk between them and the road.

Rule 10

Tactile paving. Raised surfaces that can be felt underfoot provide warning and guidance to blind or partially sighted people. The most common surfaces are a series of raised studs, which are used at crossing points with a dropped kerb, or a series of rounded raised bars which are used at level crossings, at the top and bottom of steps and at some other hazards.

Tactile pavements:

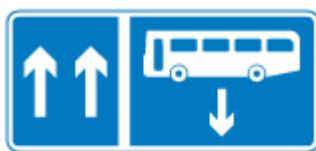


Rule 11

One-way streets. Check which way the traffic is moving. Do not cross until it is safe to do so without stopping. Bus and cycle lanes may operate in the opposite direction to the rest of the traffic.



t One-way traffic



Contraflow bus lane (the upward arrows indicate the number of traffic lanes available)



Mandatory contraflow pedal cycle lane (the upward arrows indicate the number of traffic lanes available)



Contraflow pedal cycles in a one-way street (other than a mandatory contraflow cycle lane). This may be marked by a broken line on the carriageway or there may be no line at all



Road markings for a mandatory pedal cycle lane



Road markings for an advisory pedal cycle lane. Other vehicles should not use this part of the carriageway unless it is unavoidable



Pedal cycle lane on road at junction ahead or (where 'lane' is varied to 'track') cycle track crossing road at junction ahead

Rule 12

Bus and cycle lanes. Take care when crossing these lanes as traffic may be moving faster than in the other lanes, or against the flow of traffic.
(contra flow system)

Rule 13

Routes shared with cyclists. Cycle tracks may run alongside footpaths or pavements and be separated from them by a feature such as a change of material, a verge, a kerb or a white line. Such routes may also incorporate short lengths of tactile paving to help visually impaired people stay on the correct side. On the pedestrian side this may comprise a series of flat-topped bars running across the direction of travel (ladder pattern). On the cyclist side the same bars are orientated in the direction of travel (tramline pattern).



Shared route
for pedal
cycles and
pedestrians
only



Separated
track and
path for pedal
cycles and
pedestrians



Route
for pedal
cycles only



Shared route
for horses,
pedestrians
and pedal
cycles only

Some routes shared with cyclists will not be separated by such a feature allowing cyclists and pedestrians to share the same space. Cyclists should respect your safety (see [Rule 62](#)) but you should also take care not to obstruct or endanger them. Always remain aware of your environment and avoid unnecessary distractions.

Where signs indicate, some routes are shared between pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and horse drawn vehicles. Cyclists, horse riders and drivers of horse drawn vehicles should respect your safety, but you should take care not to obstruct or endanger them. Always remain aware of your environment and avoid unnecessary distractions.

Rule 14

Parked vehicles. If you have to cross between parked vehicles, use the outside edges of the vehicles as if they were the kerb. Stop there and make sure you can see all around and that the traffic can see you. Make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so you can reach the pavement. Never cross the road in front of, or behind, any vehicle with its engine running, especially a large vehicle, as the driver may not be able to see you.

Rule 15

Reversing vehicles. Never cross behind a vehicle which is reversing, showing white reversing lights or sounding a warning.

Rule 16

Moving vehicles. You **MUST NOT** get onto or hold onto a moving vehicle.

Law [RTA 1988 sect 26](#)

Rule 17

At night. Wear something reflective to make it easier for others to see you (see [Rule 3](#)). If there is no pedestrian crossing nearby, cross the road near a street light so that traffic can see you more easily.

Crossings (rules 18 to 30)

Rule 18

At all crossings. When using any type of crossing you should

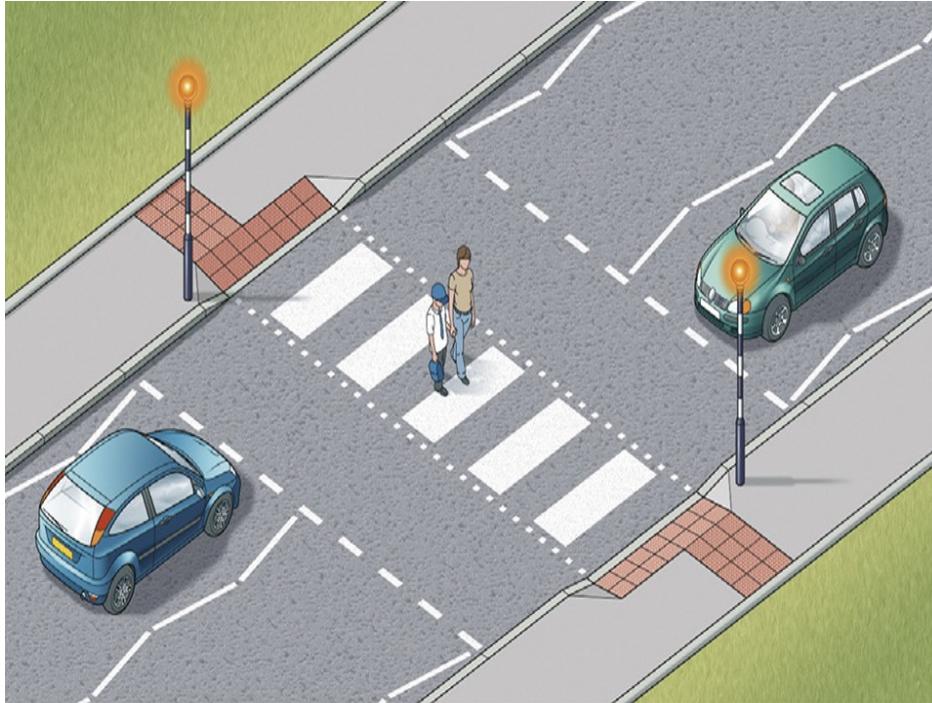
- always check that the traffic has stopped before you start to cross or push a pram onto a crossing
- always cross between the studs or over the zebra markings. Do not cross at the side of the crossing or on the zig-zag lines, as it can be dangerous.

You **MUST NOT** loiter on any type of crossing.

Laws [TSRGD Schedule 14 part 5](#) and [RTRA sect 25\(5\)](#)

Rule 19: Zebra crossings. Give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross. Vehicles will need more time when the road is slippery. Wait until traffic has stopped from both directions or the road is clear before crossing. Remember that traffic does not have to stop until someone has moved onto the crossing. Drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross and **MUST** give way to pedestrians on a zebra crossing (see [Rule H2](#)). Keep looking both ways, and listening, in case a driver or ride has not seen you and attempts to overtake a vehicle that has stopped.

Rule 19: Zebra

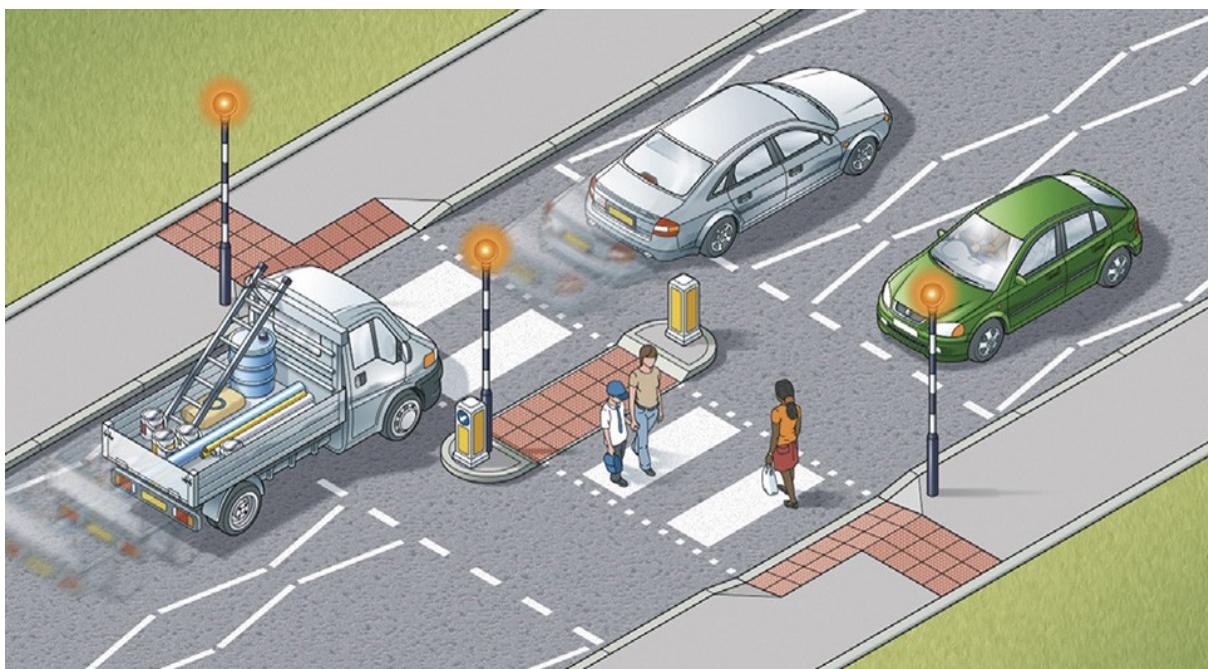


crossings have **flashing beacons**. A zebra crossing with a central island is two separate crossings (see [Rule 20](#)).

Law [TSRGD Schedule 14 part 5](#)

Rule 20

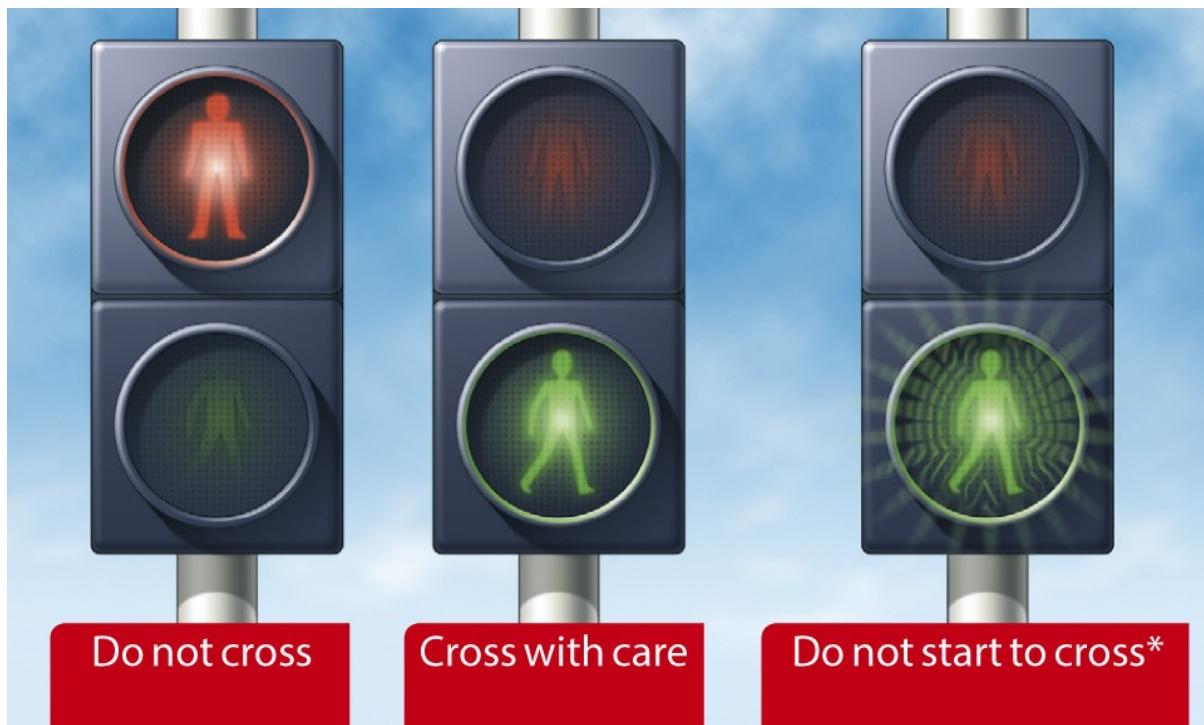
Where there is an island in the middle of a zebra crossing, wait on the island and follow [Rule 19](#) before you cross the second half of the road - it is a separate crossing.



Rule 20: Zebra crossings with a central island are two separate crossings

Rule 21

At traffic lights. There may be special signals for pedestrians. You should only start to cross the road when the green figure shows. If you have started to cross the road and the green figure goes out, you should still have time to reach the other side, but do not delay. If no pedestrian signals have been provided, watch carefully and do not cross until the traffic lights are red and the traffic has stopped. Keep looking and check for traffic that may be turning the corner. Remember that traffic lights may let traffic move in some lanes while traffic in other lanes has stopped.



Rule 21: At traffic lights, puffin and pelican crossings. *At pelican crossings only.

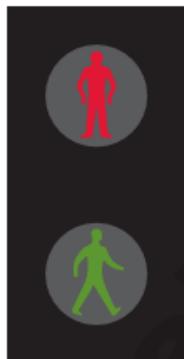
Rule 22

Pelican crossings. These are signal-controlled crossings operated by pedestrians. Push the control button to activate the traffic signals. When the red figure shows, do not cross. When a steady green figure shows, check the traffic has stopped then cross with care. When the green figure begins to flash you should not start to cross. If you have already started you should have time to finish crossing safely.

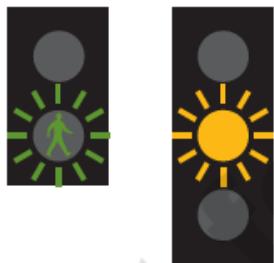
Pelican crossings



Push-button unit



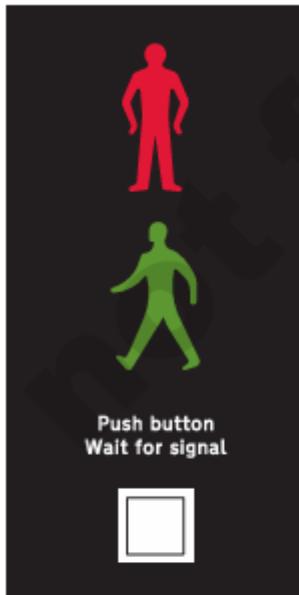
Far-side signals for pelican crossing



Pelican crossings are no longer being installed, but many existing ones remain. At the end of the pedestrian phase, the green pedestrian figure flashes before the red standing figure shows. At the same time, the red signal for vehicular traffic changes to a flashing amber signal (replacing the red and amber phase shown on page 140). The significance of these signals is that pedestrians should not start to cross, but should continue if already on the crossing; drivers may proceed, but only if the crossing is completely clear.

Rule 23

Puffin crossings differ from pelican crossings as the red and green figures are above the control box on your side of the road and **there is no flashing green figure phase**. Press the button and wait for the green figure to show.



Near-side pedestrian signals with push button

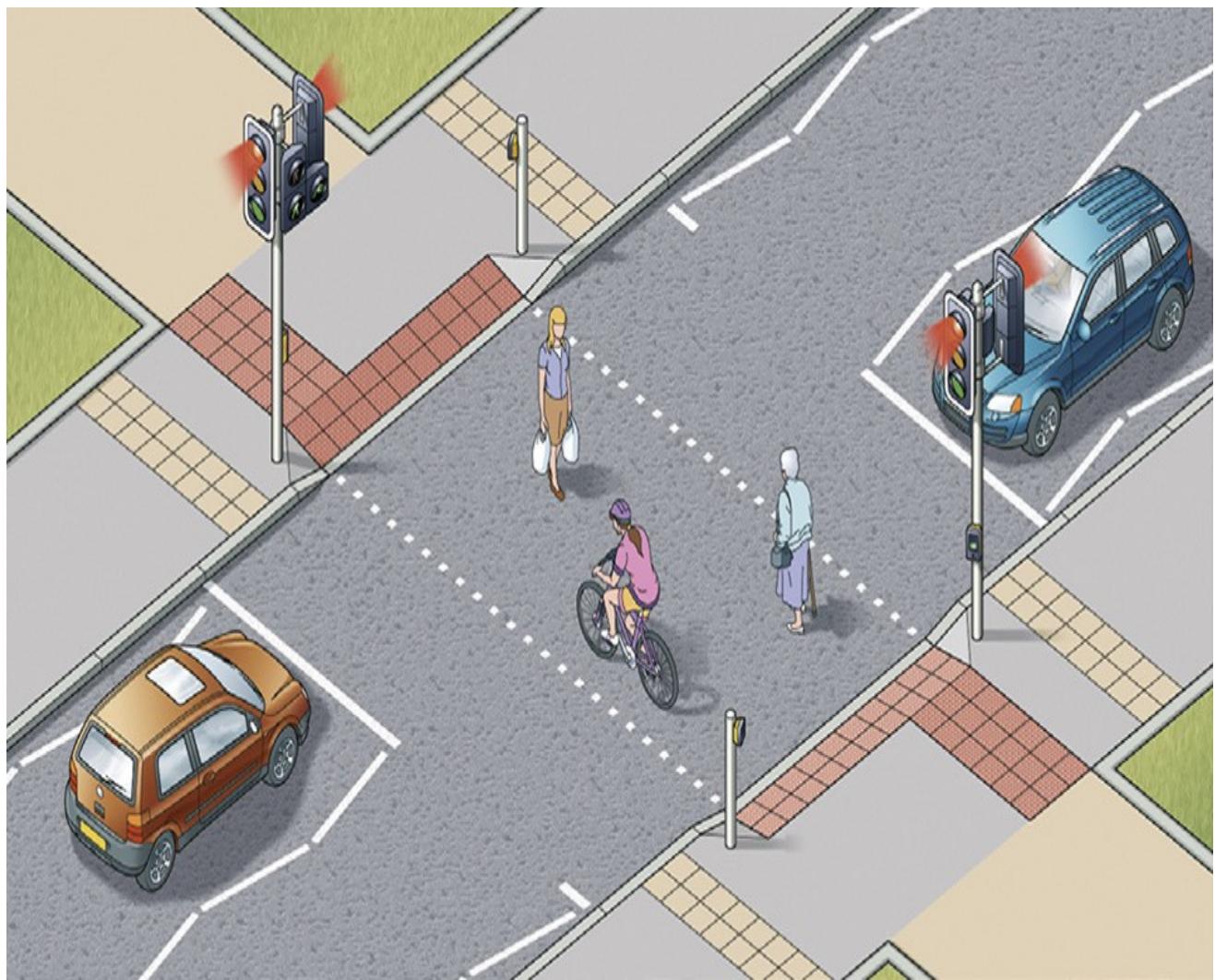
The signals for pedestrians are located above the push button and are known as 'near-side signals'. They can be seen when pedestrians are facing oncoming traffic. If the green walking figure is showing, you may cross the road, but take care in doing so. If the red standing figure is showing, press the push button and wait for the green figure to show. Unlike in older crossings, the green figure does not flash before the signals change back to red. If the red figure comes on when you are about to cross, press the push button and do not cross. Traffic will still be held on red for those pedestrians who are already crossing the road when the red figure comes on.

Rule 24

When the road is congested, traffic on your side of the road may be forced to stop even though their lights are green. Traffic may still be moving on the other side of the road, so press the button and wait for the signal to cross.

Rule 25

Toucan crossings are light-controlled crossings which allow cyclists and pedestrians to share crossing space and cross at the same time. They are push-button operated. Pedestrians and cyclists will see the green signal together. Cyclists are permitted to ride across.



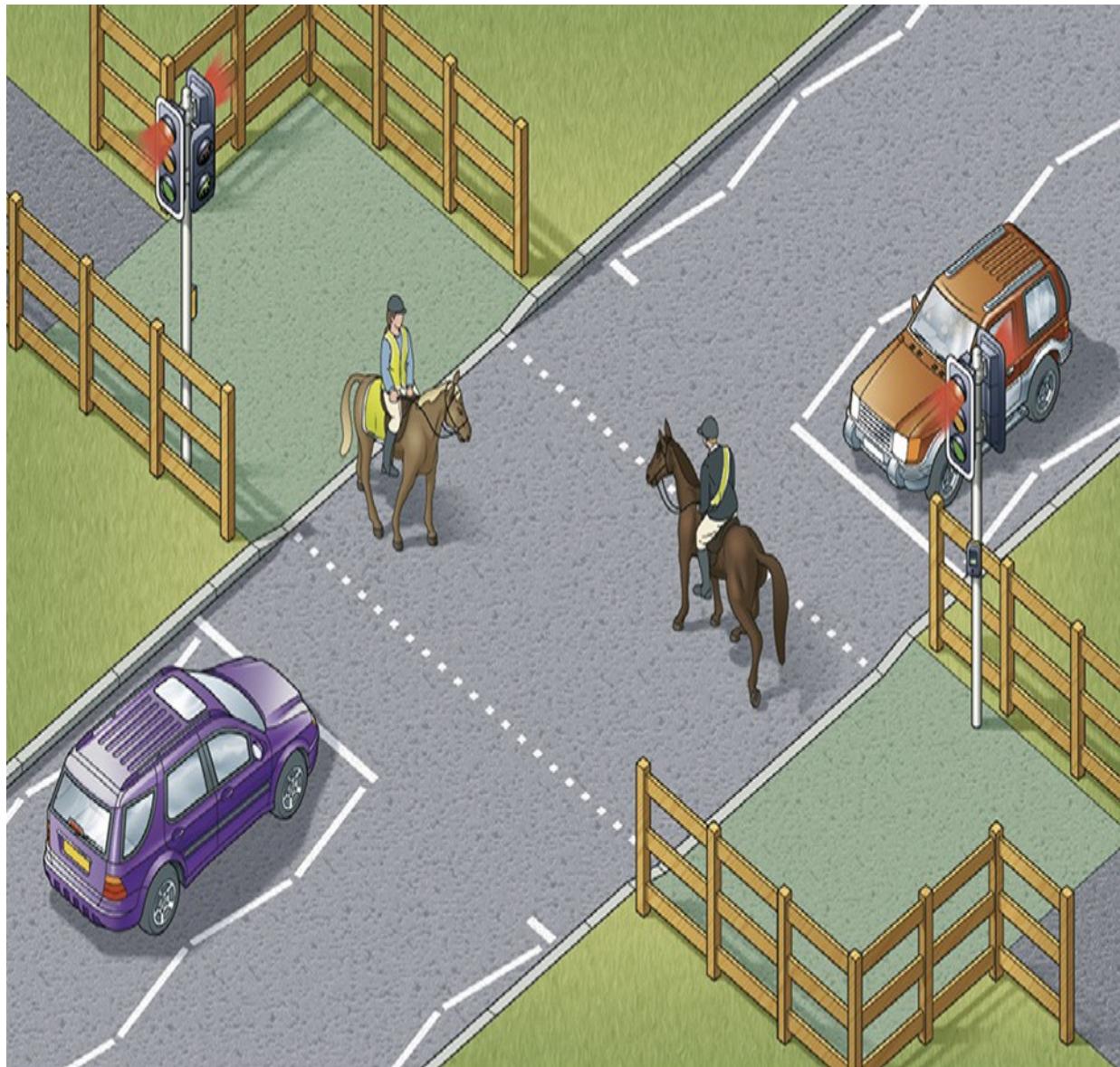
Rule 25: Toucan crossings can be used by both cyclists and pedestrians.

Rule 26

At some crossings there is a bleeping sound or voice signal to indicate to blind or partially sighted people when the steady green figure is showing, and there may be a tactile signal to help deafblind people.

Rule 27

Equestrian crossings are for horse riders. They have **pavement barriers**, **wider crossing spaces**, horse and rider figures in the light panels and either **two sets of controls** (one higher and one lower), or just one higher control panel.

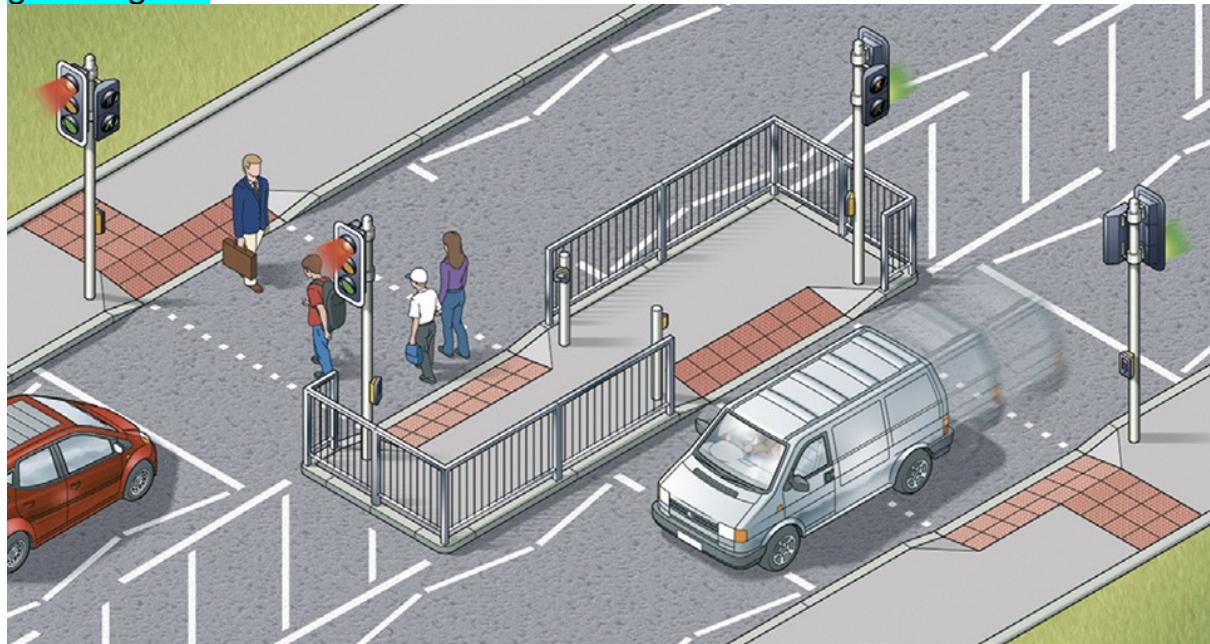


Rule 27: Equestrian crossings are used by horse riders. There is often a parallel crossing

Rule 28

‘Staggered’ pelican or puffin crossings. When the crossings on each side of the central refuge are not in line they are two separate crossings. On reaching the central island, press the button again and wait for a steady

green figure.



Rule 28: Staggered crossings (with an island in the middle) are two separate crossings.

Rule 29. Crossings controlled by an authorised person. Do not cross the road unless you are signalled to do so by a police officer, traffic warden or school crossing patrol. Always cross in front of them.

Rule 30. Where there are no controlled crossing points available it is advisable to cross where there is an island in the middle of the road. Use the Green Cross Code (see [Rule 7](#)) to cross to the island and then stop and use it again to cross the second half of the road.

Situations needing extra care (rules 31 to 35)

Rule 31

Emergency vehicles. If an ambulance, fire engine, police or other emergency vehicle approaches using flashing blue lights, headlights and/or sirens, keep off the road.

Rule 32

Buses. Get on or off a bus only when it has stopped to allow you to do so. Watch out for cyclists when you are getting off. Never cross the road directly behind or in front of a bus. Wait until it has moved off and you can see clearly in both directions.

Rule 33

Tramways. These may run through pedestrian areas. Their path will be marked out by shallow kerbs, changes in the paving or other road surface, white lines or yellow dots. Cross at designated crossings where provided. Elsewhere treat trams as you would other road vehicles and look both ways along the track before crossing. Do not walk along the track as trams may come up behind you. Trams move quietly and cannot steer to avoid you.



Warning of trams crossing the road ahead



Reminder to pedestrians to look out for trams approaching from both directions



Drivers of other vehicles must give way to trams at level crossings without barriers, gates or road traffic light signals. Sometimes just a 'give way' sign and a tram plate may be used

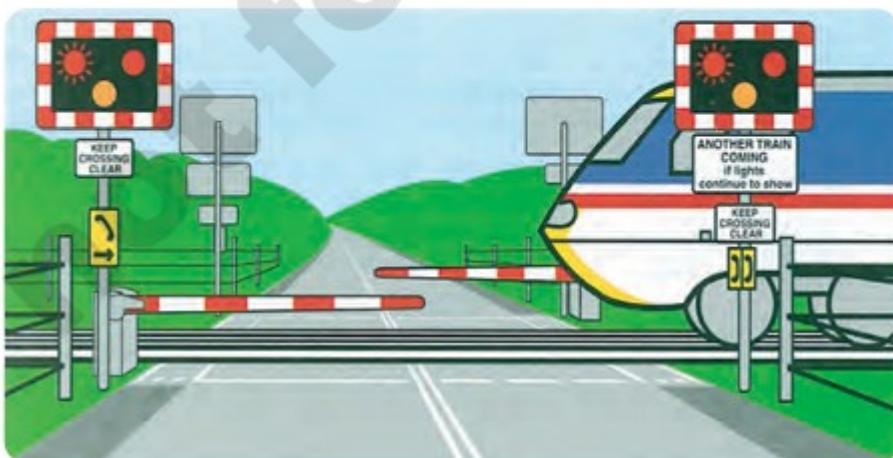


Speed limit sign for tram drivers shown in kilometres per hour. All diamond-shaped signs are for tram drivers only

Rule 34

Railway level crossings. You **MUST NOT** cross or pass a stop line when the red lights show, (including a red pedestrian figure). Also **do not cross** if an **alarm** is sounding or the **barriers** are being lowered. The tone of the alarm may change if another train is approaching. If there are no lights, alarms or barriers, stop, look both ways and listen before crossing. A tactile surface comprising rounded bars running across the direction of pedestrian travel may be installed on the footpath approaching a level crossing to warn visually impaired people of its presence. The tactile surface should extend across the full width of the footway and should be located at an appropriate distance from the barrier or projected line of the barrier.

Automatic half-barrier level crossings



Amber lights and audible warnings followed by flashing red lights warn that a train is approaching and that the barriers are about to come down. You must **STOP**. The red lights flash all the time the barriers are down, but the audible warning might stop. If another train is approaching, the barriers will stay down; the lights will continue to flash and, if there is an audible warning, the sound will change.

Law [TSRGD schedule 14 part 1](#)

Rule 35

Street and pavement repairs. A pavement may be closed temporarily because it is not safe to use. Take extra care if you are directed to walk in or to cross the road.