

On-Site Crossing Reviews

It is important for public safety that each grade crossing's physical surface and warning devices be properly maintained.

The Department's Railroad Safety Inspectors conduct periodic on-site grade crossing reviews at all of Michigan's public grade crossings (currently there are 5,365 public crossing statewide). These routine inspections are authorized under Section 301(5) of Public Act 354. On-site reviews are conducted by visual examination and physical measurements. During a routine on-site review, the inspector completes a On-Site Inspection Form and takes a comprehensive series of photographs of the crossing's environment. On-site forms contain information such as: crossing identification, roadway characteristics, crossing construction materials and measurements, train movements, static signing, automatic warning devices, and sight distance information. In total, over 225 pieces of data are collected and maintained for each public grade crossing.

Our goal is that each public crossing be visited at once every two years. Any noted deficiencies are reported to the affected railroad or road authority for corrective action. Inspectors are available to answer any questions about the deficiencies observed, and they perform compliance reviews to ensure any needed maintenance is accomplished.