

2004 NC Supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

CHAPTER 4D. TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL FEATURES

Section 4D.04 Meaning of Vehicular Signal Indications

Standard:

Vehicular traffic facing a steady **CIRCULAR RED** or **RED ARROW** signal indication shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, traffic shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; but if there is no crosswalk, then before entering the intersection, and shall remain stopped until a signal indication to proceed is given, or as provided below.

Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn on red, vehicular traffic facing a steady CIRCULAR RED or RED ARROW signal indication may enter the intersection to turn right after stopping. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

Where turning movements are not allowed when a traffic signal is emitting a steady red indication, a "NO TURN ON RED" sign (R-10-11 or R10-11b) shall be used.

Support:

General Statute 20-158(b)(2) of the Motor Vehicle Laws of North Carolina states "except where prohibited by an appropriate sign, vehicular traffic facing a red light controlling traffic passing (straight) through an intersection, after coming to a complete stop at the intersection, may enter the intersection to make a right turn but such vehicle shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and to other traffic using the intersection."

Although not specifically defined by the general statutes, a red light is implied to be either a CIRCULAR RED or a RED ARROW.

To reduce potential motorist confusion and misinterpretation of the meaning of signal indications, the use of consistent signage prohibiting or allowing turns on red indications is encouraged. Motorists usually assume they can turn unless a sign is in place prohibiting the movement.

Section 4D.05 Application of Steady Signal Indications

Standard:

Steady signal indications shall be applied as follows:

A. A steady RED ARROW signal indication:

1. A steady RED ARROW signal indication shall be displayed when it is intended to prohibit traffic, except pedestrians directed by a pedestrian signal head, from entering the intersection or other controlled area to make the indicated turn. Turning after stopping is permitted as stated in Section 4D.04 of this supplement.
2. Where turning movements are not allowed when a traffic signal is emitting a steady CIRCULAR RED or RED ARROW indication, a "NO TURN ON RED" sign (R-10-11 or R10-11b) shall be used in conjunction with the steady red signal indication.

Figure 2B-19. Traffic Signal Signs



R10-5



R10-6



R10-6a



R10-7



R10-8



R10-10



R10-11



R10-11a



R10-11b



R10-12



R10-13



R10-15



R10-16



R10-17a



R10-20a



OR



R10-21

Figure 2B-19. Traffic Signal Signs

This figure shows 17 traffic signal signs.

R10-5 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and the words "LEFT ON GREEN ARROW ONLY" in black on four lines.

R10-6 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and legend. The words "STOP HERE ON RED," with the words "STOP" and "RED" in large letters, are shown on three lines above a diagonal black arrow that points down and to the left.

R10-6a is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and the words "STOP HERE" in black on two lines above a left-pointing downward-curving horizontal black arrow that is above the words "ON RED" on two lines.

R10-7 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and legend. The words "DO NOT BLOCK" are shown in large letters on two lines above the word "INTERSECTION" on the bottom line.

R10-8 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and the words "USE LANE WITH GREEN ARROW" in black on five lines.

R10-10 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and the words "LEFT TURN SIGNAL" in black on three lines.

R10-11 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and legend. The word "NO" is shown in large letters on the top line above the words "TURN ON RED" on two lines above a red disc on the bottom line.

R10-11a is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and legend. The word "NO" is shown in large letters on the top line above the words "TURN ON RED" on the next three lines.

R10-11b is shown as a square white sign with a black border and the words "NO TURN ON RED" in black on three lines.

R10-12 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and legend. The words "LEFT TURN YIELD ON GREEN" are shown, with the word "YIELD" in large letters, on three lines above a green disc on the bottom line.

R10-13 is shown as a horizontal rectangular white sign with a black border and the words "EMERGENCY SIGNAL" in black on two lines.

R10-15 is shown as a square white sign with a black border and legend. The words "TURNING TRAFFIC MUST YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS" are shown, with the word "MUST" in large letters, on five lines.

R10-16 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and the words "U-TURN YIELD TO RIGHT TURN" in black on five lines.

R10-17a is shown as a square white sign with a black border and the words "RIGHT ON RED ARROW AFTER STOP" in black on four lines.

R10-20a is shown as a square white sign with a black border and the words "MON-FRI 7-9 AM 4-7 PM" in black on three lines. To the right of this sign, the word "OR" is shown and another sign. This is shown as a horizontal rectangular sign with the words "SUNDAY 7-11 AM" on two lines.

R10-21 is shown as a vertical rectangular white sign with a black border and legend. The words "LEFT TURN SIGNAL" are shown on two lines above a thin horizontal black line above the words "YIELD ON GREEN," with the word "YIELD" in large letters, on two lines above a green disc on the bottom line.

North Carolina General Statute

§ 20-158. Vehicle control signs and signals.

(a) The Department of Transportation, with reference to State highways, and local authorities, with reference to highways under their jurisdiction, are hereby authorized to control vehicles:

- (1) At intersections, by erecting or installing stop signs requiring vehicles to come to a complete stop at the entrance to that portion of the intersection designated as the main traveled or through highway. Stop signs may also be erected at three or more entrances to an intersection.
- (2) At appropriate places other than intersections, by erecting or installing stop signs requiring vehicles to come to a complete stop.
- (3) At intersections and other appropriate places, by erecting or installing steady-beam traffic signals and other traffic control devices, signs, or signals. All steady-beam traffic signals emitting alternate red and green lights shall be arranged so that the red light in vertical-arranged signal faces shall appear above, and in horizontal-arranged signal faces shall appear to the left of all yellow and green lights.
- (4) At intersections and other appropriate places, by erecting or installing flashing red or yellow lights.

(b) Control of Vehicles at Intersections. –

- (1) When a stop sign has been erected or installed at an intersection, it shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to fail to stop in obedience thereto and yield the right-of-way to vehicles operating on the designated main traveled or through highway. When stop signs have been erected at three or more entrances to an intersection, the driver, after stopping in obedience thereto, may proceed with caution.
- (2)
 - a. When a traffic signal is emitting a steady red circular light controlling traffic approaching an intersection, an approaching vehicle facing the red light shall come to a stop and shall not enter the intersection. After coming to a complete stop and unless prohibited by an appropriate sign, that approaching vehicle may make a right turn.
 - b. Any vehicle that turns right under this subdivision shall yield the right-of-way to:
 1. Other traffic and pedestrians using the intersection; and
 2. Pedestrians who are moving towards the intersection, who are in reasonably close proximity to the intersection, and who are preparing to cross in front of the traffic that is required to stop at the red light.
 - c. Failure to yield to a pedestrian under this subdivision shall be an infraction, and the court may assess a penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
 - d. The Department of Transportation shall collect data regarding the number of individuals who are found responsible for violations of subdivision b. of this subdivision and the number of pedestrians who are involved in accidents at intersections because of a driver's failure to yield the right-of-way while turning right at a red light. The data shall include information regarding the number of disabled pedestrians, including individuals with visual or mobility-related disabilities, who are involved in right turn on red accidents. The Department shall report the data annually to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee beginning January 1, 2006.
- (2a) When a traffic signal is emitting a steady yellow circular light on a traffic signal controlling traffic approaching an intersection or a steady yellow arrow light on a traffic signal controlling traffic turning at an intersection, vehicles facing the yellow light are warned that the related green light is being terminated or a red light will be immediately forthcoming. When the traffic signal is emitting a steady green light, vehicles may proceed with due care through the intersection subject to the rights of pedestrians and other vehicles as may otherwise be provided by law.
- (3) When a flashing red light has been erected or installed at an intersection, approaching vehicles facing the red light shall stop and yield the right-of-way to vehicles in or approaching the intersection. The right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable to making a stop at a stop sign.

- (4) When a flashing yellow light has been erected or installed at an intersection, approaching vehicles facing the yellow flashing light may proceed through the intersection with caution, yielding the right-of-way to vehicles in or approaching the intersection.
- (5) When a stop sign, traffic signal, flashing light, or other traffic control device authorized by subsection (a) of this section requires a vehicle to stop at an intersection, the driver shall stop (i) at an appropriately marked stop line, or if none, (ii) before entering a marked crosswalk, or if none, (iii) before entering the intersection at the point nearest the intersecting street where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting street.
- (6) When a traffic signal is not illuminated due to a power outage or other malfunction, vehicles shall approach the intersection and proceed through the intersection as though such intersection is controlled by a stop sign on all approaches to the intersection. This subdivision shall not apply if the movement of traffic at the intersection is being directed by a law enforcement officer, another authorized person, or another type of traffic control device.

(c) Control of Vehicles at Places other than Intersections. –

- (1) When a stop sign has been erected or installed at a place other than an intersection, it shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to fail to stop in obedience thereto and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles.
- (2) When a traffic signal has been erected or installed at a place other than an intersection, and is emitting a steady red light, vehicles facing the red light shall come to a complete stop. When the traffic signal is emitting a steady yellow light, vehicles facing the light shall be warned that a red light will be immediately forthcoming and that vehicles may not proceed through such a red light. When the traffic signal is emitting a steady green light, vehicles may proceed subject to the rights of pedestrians and other vehicles as may otherwise be provided by law.
- (3) When a flashing red light has been erected or installed at a place other than an intersection, approaching vehicles facing the light shall stop and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians or other vehicles.
- (4) When a flashing yellow light has been erected or installed at a place other than an intersection, approaching vehicles facing the light may proceed with caution, yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles.
- (5) When a traffic signal, stop sign, or other traffic control device authorized by subsection (a) requires a vehicle to stop at a place other than an intersection, the driver shall stop at an appropriately marked stop line, or if none, before entering a marked crosswalk, or if none, before proceeding past the traffic control device.

(d) No failure to stop as required by the provisions of this section shall be considered negligence or contributory negligence per se in any action at law for injury to person or property, but the facts relating to such failure to stop may be considered with the other facts in the case in determining whether a party was guilty of negligence or contributory negligence.

(e) Defense. – It shall be a defense to a violation of subdivision (b)(2)a. of this section if the operator of a motorcycle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)d., shows all of the following:

- (1) The operator brought the motorcycle to a complete stop at the intersection or stop bar where a steady red light was being emitted in the direction of the operator.
- (2) The intersection is controlled by a vehicle actuated traffic signal using an inductive loop to activate the traffic signal.
- (3) No other vehicle that was entitled to have the right-of-way under applicable law was sitting at, traveling through, or approaching the intersection.
- (4) No pedestrians were attempting to cross at or near the intersection.
- (5) The motorcycle operator who received the citation waited a minimum of three minutes at the intersection or stop bar where the steady red light was being emitted in the direction of the operator before entering the intersection.