



TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANUAL

Chapter 4 – Signals 4D –Construction

Turn On

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General

Guidelines for Final Inspection prior to putting a new signal into operation are found in Section 4D-3 of the Traffic and Safety Manual. The final inspection may be made the same day that the signals are actuated.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices does not provide a procedure to be followed when putting a new signal into operation. The Institute of Transportation Engineers, however, has issued Recommended Practice RP-034A, entitled Guidelines For Activation, Modification and Removal of Traffic Signals. The statement in that publication on the subject of whether to place the signal in flash operation for a period of time prior to full operation is as follows:

"If the agency determines that it is appropriate to flash the traffic control signal prior to activation, the traffic control signal can be placed in yellow-red or all-red flash for a period not exceeding one week. If the agency determines that a flash period is not necessary or desirable, the traffic control signal may be activated immediately after final testing of controller equipment."

Flashing Operation

Following the final inspection and any necessary corrections, the signals shall not be placed in flashing operation for a period of time prior to full actuation to give repeat road users an indication that the signals will soon be in operation. They may be placed in flashing operation long enough for removal of the signs that no longer apply, such as Stop and Stop Ahead.

Signing

Signing shall be used rather than flashing the signals for a period of time prior to full actuation. A mid-week day should be chosen to turn the signals on. Signs with the message "Signal Active Tuesday" (day of week) should be placed on the major street approaches seven days in advance of turn on. Changeable Message Signs may be used for this purpose if they are available.

Special Traffic Signal Ahead signs may be used for one week following activation of the signals. Changeable Message Signs may be used for this purpose if they are available. These signs are not needed if beacons are being used on permanent advance warning signs.

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