A level crossing is an interface between road and rail infrastructure. According to the UNECE 1968 Convention on Road Traffic and the Highway Code, trains have priority, whilst road users and pedestrians must comply with road signs and signals in order to cross safely and consequently prevent any collision arising from misuse or inappropriate behaviour and potentially endangering train passengers, crew and other users. Using a level crossing is safe as long as users cross properly. Nevertheless, risks still exist and the consequences of a collision between trains and commercial vehicles can be dramatic. Global freight and passenger traffic, both road and rail, have increased markedly in recent decades, thereby also increasing the risks of collisions at level crossings. This is why IRU and UIC, two worldwide road and rail associations, plus Operation Lifesaver Estonia, have decided to join forces to raise awareness about level crossing safety amongst transport professionals. This safety guidance does not necessarily cover every situation that may arise when drivers of commercial vehicles use a level crossing, but it may help make them more aware of how to avoid the risks that may lead to a collision.

www.iru.org/
www.uic.org
www.ole.ee/en/
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- If the crossing lights start flashing, while crossing, keep going.
- If your vehicle is stuck between the barriers, drive through, breaking them.
- Evacuate all passengers from the broken-down vehicle and move quickly away.
- Make emergency call.

SAFETY TIPS FOR TAXI DRIVERS

Make emergency call

If the crossing lights start flashing, while crossing, keep going.

Evacuate all passengers from the broken-down vehicle and move quickly away.

If your vehicle is stuck between the barriers, drive through, breaking them.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

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**CROSSING SAFELY: GENERAL CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED**

- Be prepared to encounter a level/grade crossing
- Slow down
- Obey the road signs and signals
- Where there is a STOP sign: STOP, look both ways and listen carefully
- Stop well before LC markings and signs
- Be aware of traffic jams
- Never stop on tracks

**SPECIAL TIPS FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

- Turn off the radio
- Be aware that a train can’t stop immediately
- Be aware that a train weighs much more than a taxi
- Be aware that a train extends over the rails

**CROSSING SAFELY: OTHER CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED**

- Expect a train from either direction
- Do not zigzag between barriers
- Wait for all the warnings to stop and the barriers to open completely
- Adapt your driving to weather conditions
- Be aware of the length of your vehicle
- Observe the relevant height clearance
- Observe the relevant width clearance
- Observe the topography of level/grade crossings

**Adapt your driving to weather conditions**

- Slow down 70 km/h to 20 km/h
- Be prepared to encounter a level/grade crossing
- Obey the road signs and signals
- Where there is a STOP sign: STOP, look both ways and listen carefully
- Stop well before LC markings and signs
- Be aware of traffic jams
- Never stop on tracks
- Observe the relevant width clearance

**Observe the relevant width clearance**

- Slow down 70 km/h to 20 km/h
- Be prepared to encounter a level/grade crossing
- Obey the road signs and signals
- Where there is a STOP sign: STOP, look both ways and listen carefully
- Stop well before LC markings and signs
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**Observe the relevant width clearance**

- Slow down 70 km/h to 20 km/h
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- Stop well before LC markings and signs
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- Never stop on tracks
- Observe the relevant width clearance