

Section I. Pre-Rule Quiet Zones: Qualifying for Automatic Approval (Chart 1A)

1. Identify all the crossings you wish to include as part of the proposed Quiet Zone (QZ).
2. Check whether each crossing qualifies as a pre-rule crossing (horns not sounding on October 9, 1996 and December 18, 2003 because of state/local law or community agreement with the railroads). If all crossings do not qualify as pre-rule crossings, then the proposed quiet zone does not qualify as a Pre-Rule QZ, and you should refer to *Section III, New Quiet Zones*.
3. Determine whether you wish to eliminate any crossings from the proposed QZ. The length of a Pre-Rule QZ may continue unchanged from that which existed on October 9, 1996. If, however, you choose to eliminate a crossing, the QZ must be at least ½ mile in length along the railroad tracks.
4. A QZ may include highway-rail grade crossings on a segment of rail line crossing more than one political jurisdiction, or there may be roads within a particular area that are the responsibility of different entities (State or county roads within a town, for example). If the selected crossings are the responsibility of more than one entity, obtain the cooperation of all relevant jurisdictions.
5. Update the USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Form to reflect conditions at each public and private crossing; this update should be complete, accurate, and be dated within 6 months prior to the QZ implementation. For instructions on how to complete the update, see the FRA website at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/Content3.asp?P=801>.
6. If each public crossing in the proposed QZ is equipped with one or more Supplementary Safety Measures (SSMs) as defined in Appendix A of the Rule, the QZ qualifies for Automatic Approval. To complete the process of creating the QZ, notify the parties listed in rule section 222.43 by December 18, 2004.

Note: Once the QZ has been created, install the required signage by December 18, 2006. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 4.5-5 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

7. If every public crossing is not equipped with at least one SSM, then the QZ can automatically qualify by comparing its Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) with the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). However, these QZs are subject to annual review by the FRA.

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8. Using the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator, a web-based tool that can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>, determine whether the QZRI of the proposed QZ is less than or equal to the NSRT. If the QZRI is less than or equal to the NSRT, the QZ qualifies for Automatic Approval. Notify the parties listed in rule section 222.43 by December 18, 2004.

Note: Once the quiet zone has been created, install the required signage by December 18, 2006. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

9. If the QZRI is greater than the NSRT, use the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator to check whether it is less than twice the NSRT. If the QZRI is more than twice the NSRT, the QZ cannot qualify for Automatic Approval. For information on how to proceed, see *Section II, Pre-Rule Quiet Zones Not Qualified for Automatic Approval*.
10. If the QZRI is greater than the NSRT, but less than twice the NSRT, determine whether any of the public crossings have experienced a "relevant collision" on or after December 18, 1998. (See rule section 222.9 for the definition of a "relevant collision.") If there have not been any "relevant collisions" at any public crossing since December 18, 1998, the QZ qualifies for Automatic Approval. Notify the parties listed in rule section 222.43.

Note: Once the quiet zone has been created, install the required signage by December 18, 2006. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

11. If the QZRI is greater than the NSRT, but less than twice the NSRT, and there has been a "relevant collision" at a public crossing within the proposed QZ, the QZ cannot qualify for Automatic Approval. For information on how to proceed, see *Section II, Pre-Rule Quiet Zones Not Qualified for Automatic Approval*.

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Section II. Pre-Rule Quiet Zones Not Qualified for Automatic Approval (Chart 1B)

1. Review *Section I, Pre-Rule Quiet Zones: Qualifying for Automatic Approval*, to confirm that the proposed Pre-Rule Quiet Zone does not qualify for Automatic Approval.
2. If each crossing qualifies as a pre-rule crossing (horns not sounding on October 9, 1996 and December 18, 2003 because of state/local law or community agreement with the railroads), send notice of continuation of the quiet zone to all parties by December 18, 2004. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: If you eliminated any pre-rule crossings to create the proposed Quiet Zone, the Quiet Zone must be at least ½ mile in length along the railroad tracks.

3. Submit to FRA a detailed plan for establishing a quiet zone before December 18, 2006. This plan should include a timetable for the implementation of safety improvements. If you intend to implement ASMs, the plan should include a completed application for FRA approval of their use. If a detailed plan is not been submitted by December 18, 2006, the quiet zone will terminate. (Refer to rule section 222.41 for details.)

Note: Since the proposed quiet zone does not qualify for Automatic Approval, any SSMs and ASMs used must be implemented in accordance with rule section 222.39.¹

Note: For guidance on ASM use, see *Section IV, Creating Quiet Zones using Engineering Alternative Safety Measures (modified SSMs)* and *Section V, Creating Quiet Zones using Non-engineering Alternative Safety Measures*.

Note: Required signage must also be installed by December 18, 2006. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)

4. Install SSMs and/or traffic control device upgrades as necessary to reduce risk within the proposed quiet zone.
5. If every public crossing in the proposed Quiet Zone is equipped with one or more SSMs as defined in Appendix A of the Rule, you can establish the proposed Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

¹ Although the requirements for implementation of SSMs and ASMs must be in accord with rule section 222.39, the Pre-Rule Quiet Zone requirements covering minimum length and traffic control devices remain in effect for these crossings.

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- a. Complete the planned improvements by December 18, 2008,²
- b. Update the USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Form.
- c. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 4.5-5 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

6. Using the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator, a web-based tool that can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>, determine whether the implementation of SSMs, ASMs, and/or traffic control devices will reduce the QZRI of the proposed Pre-Rule Quiet Zone to the level of risk that would exist if the train horns were still sounded (RIWH). If the QZRI will be less than or equal to the RIWH, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

- a. Complete the planned improvements by December 18, 2008,²
- b. Update the USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Form.
- c. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

7. Using the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator, a web-based tool that can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>, determine whether the implementation of SSMs, ASMs, and/or traffic control devices will reduce the QZRI of the proposed Pre-Rule Quiet Zone to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). If the QZRI will be less than or equal to the current NSRT, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

- a. Complete the planned improvements by December 18, 2008.²
- b. Update the USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Form.

² If the State is involved in the development of Quiet Zones, then the date for completion is extended an additional 3 years.

- c. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Quiet Zones established by comparison to the NSRT are subject to annual FRA review. (Refer to rule section 222.51 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

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Section III. Creating a New Quiet Zone Using SSMS (Chart 2)

1. Select the crossings to be included in the New Quiet Zone.
2. A Quiet Zone may include highway-rail grade crossings on a segment of rail line crossing more than one political jurisdiction, or there may be roads within a particular area that are the responsibility of different entities (State or county roads within a town, for example). If the selected crossings are the responsibility of more than one entity, obtain the cooperation of all relevant jurisdictions.
3. A New Quiet Zone must be at least ½ mile in length along the railroad tracks.
4. A New Quiet Zone must have, at a minimum, flashing lights and gates in place at each public crossing. These must be equipped with constant warning time devices where reasonably practical, and power out indicators. Any necessary upgrades must be completed before calculating risk for the quiet zone.
5. Are there any private crossings within the proposed Quiet Zone? If any private crossings allow access to the public or provide access to active industrial or commercial sites, you must conduct a diagnostic team review of those crossings. Following the diagnostic review, you must comply with the diagnostic team's recommendations concerning those crossings.
6. Update the USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Form to reflect conditions at each public and private crossing; this update should be complete, accurate, and dated within 6 months prior to the Quiet Zone implementation³. For instructions on how to complete the update, see the FRA website at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/Content3.asp?P=801>.
7. Using the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator, a web-based tool that can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>, determine whether the Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) of the proposed Quiet Zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). If the QZRI is less than or equal to the NSRT, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:
 - a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)
 - b. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

³ For New Quiet Zones, the baseline conditions for calculating risk require that the minimum required traffic control devices are in place. This first Inventory update, therefore, must be completed after the gates, lights, and signs are in place, but before the SSMS and other measures are implemented. **Disclaimer: This summary of the interim final rule is for informational purposes only. Entities subject to the interim final rule should refer to the rule text as published in the Federal Register on December 18, 2003. Should any portion of this summary conflict with the interim final rule, the language of the interim final rule shall govern.**

Note: Quiet Zones established by comparison to the NSRT are subject to annual FRA review. (Refer to rule section 222.51 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

8. The step described above involves qualifying a quiet zone without implementing any Supplementary Safety Measures (SSMs) or Alternative Safety Measures (ASMs). If FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator indicates that the proposed quiet zone will not qualify on that basis, install any measures that are needed. To qualify for Public Authority Designation, you must implement SSMs, build grade separations, close crossings, or install wayside horns.

Note: If you would like to implement any ASMs, their use must be approved in advance by FRA, in accordance with Appendix B of the rule. For guidance on ASM use, see *Section IV, Creating Quiet Zones using Engineering Alternative Safety Measures (modified SSMs)* or *Section V, Creating Quiet Zones using Non-engineering Alternative Safety Measures*.

9. If every public crossing in the proposed Quiet Zone is equipped with one or more SSMs, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:
 - a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)
 - b. Update the National Grade Crossing Inventory to reflect current conditions at each public and private crossing within the Quiet Zone.
 - c. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 4.5-5 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

10. If every public crossing is not equipped with an SSM, use FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator to determine whether enough SSMs have been implemented to reduce the QZRI to the level of risk that would exist if the train horns were still sounded (RIWH). The Quiet Zone Calculator can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>. If the QZRI is less than or equal to the RIWH, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

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- a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)
- b. Update the National Grade Crossing Inventory to reflect current conditions at each public and private crossing within the Quiet Zone.
- c. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

11. Use FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator to determine whether enough SSMs have been implemented to reduce the QZRI to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). The Quiet Zone Calculator can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>. If the QZRI is less than or equal to the current NSRT, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

- a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25 and 222.35 for details.)
- b. Update the National Grade Crossing Inventory to reflect current conditions at each public and private crossing within the Quiet Zone.
- c. Notify the parties listed in the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Quiet Zones established by comparison to the NSRT are subject to annual FRA review. (Refer to rule section 222.51 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

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