

# MOVING LIVESTOCK ACROSS A RAILWAY LINE

## STEP 1: You must

**Before you can move livestock across a railway line, YOU MUST HAVE A DEED OF GRANT.**

- If you do not have a Deed of Grant you can apply in writing to the Property Office, KiwiRail, PO Box 593, Wellington. You should also include suitable plans and photographs.

### Is there an alternative way to cross

Before applying for a Deed of Grant, first consider if there is an alternative way to cross.

- Consider whether an underpass can be built. Talk with KiwiRail about this possibility – 0800 801 070.

### Site Safety Plan

The Health and Safety in Employment Act may require you to develop a Site Safety Plan. You should contact the Department of Labour for more information – 0800 20 90 20.

## STEP 2: Read

Farmers are asked to read the below real and reasonable suggestions so that moving livestock across a railway line can be carried out safely and without impeding rail vehicles.

### Be aware of what could be on the railway line

Freight and passenger services operate throughout New Zealand. If the railway line runs through your farm, the following rail vehicles could be on the railway at any time.

- **Trains** – these are heavy and are moving fast and they cannot stop quickly.
- **Maintenance vehicles** – these machines can be very large working as a unit or be one vehicle moving quickly.

Your Site Safety Plan may need to include a contact procedure to Train Control, to find out when rail vehicles will be travelling through. For Train Control contact details please email [crossingpermits@kiwirail.co.nz](mailto:crossingpermits@kiwirail.co.nz).

### Stop, Look and Listen

Farm vehicles can be noisy so when using one **stop, look and listen** before crossing. It only takes a few extra seconds to save you and your livestock from a fatal accident.

### Keep control of livestock while crossing

Getting livestock to cross the railway line can be difficult. Small mobs that know the drill are easy but mobs of young stock (e.g. 1200 freshly weaned lambs) can be difficult.

- Be particular about what dogs you use and keep an eye on what they are doing.
- Folding gates inwards guides the stock a bit better but could add risk to any train that arrives so you **MUST** close the gates once you have crossed.
- If cattle are crossing, think about putting electric fencing tape over the line to act as a guide (it need not be electrified but will provide a 'mental' barrier). The use of tape as a guide will help minimise the time that cattle will be 'at risk' on the railway line.
- Sheep need a greater physical barrier. The use of docking scrim may be sensible for young stock or mobs unfamiliar with the crossing.
- Alternatively some farmers now use the orange plastic netting (sometimes used for road works) to guide stock when mustering for docking lambs etc. The orange netting is highly visible and easy to handle. It could be quickly rolled up and stowed safely at the side of the fence line for reuse.

## STEP 3: Safety

**The farmer is entirely responsible for keeping the crossing clear for rail vehicles.**

- Under the Health and Safety in Employment Act you may be required to develop a Site Safety Plan for moving livestock across the railway line. If you don't have one, you should contact the Department of Labour for more information – 0800 20 90 20.

**If livestock get loose in the rail corridor**

**Call the Train Control Emergency Number - 0800 808 400**

**DO NOT ENTER THE RAIL CORRIDOR** to retrieve the animal/s.

- You **MUST** have KiwiRail supervision to enter the rail corridor.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Call the Train Control Emergency Number - 0800 808 400**

- If livestock get loose in the rail corridor
- If you are reporting dead stock in the rail corridor
- If a farm vehicle is blocking the railway line

**CALL KIWIRAIL - 0800 801 070**

- If you want to discuss building an underpass
- If you want to discuss removing shrubs or trees within the rail corridor that is blocking safe viewing distances

**WRITE TO KIWIRAIL – P O Box 593, Wellington**

- If you need to apply for a Deed of Grant

**EMAIL [crossingpermits@kiwirail.co.nz](mailto:crossingpermits@kiwirail.co.nz)**

- To find out the correct Train Control contact details for you

**CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR – 0800 20 90 20**

- If you need more information about developing a Site Safety Plan

## GLOSSARY

**Livestock** – any living farming animal (not including dogs or pets)

**Maintenance Vehicle** – purpose-built machines that are used to maintain the railway line

**Rail Corridor** – land either side of and including the railway line

**Rail Network** – all of the railway lines in New Zealand

**Rail Vehicle** – any vehicle that is moving on the railway line

**Railway Line** – the track that the trains run on

**Rollingstock** – any rolling asset on the railway line - includes rail vehicles, locomotives, maintenance vehicles, carriages/cars and wagons

**Train Control** – the National Train Control Centre that is responsible for all train movements on the rail network in New Zealand.

**Underpass** – a pathway built underneath the rail corridor