

Railway Infrastructure Administration, s.o. Level Crossings

A level crossing consists of a track crossing with a ground communication at the level of rails marked with a warning cross piece. According to § 6, Act No. 266/1994 Coll. on the Rail as amended, priority is always given to the railway transport at the crossings of railway tracks with ground communications. This aspect is reflected in legal regulations of rules for participants of road traffic at railway crossings and specifies that every participant of the traffic on ground communications has to pay special attention when passing those railway crossings. In particular, they must make sure they can pass the railway crossing safely. The crossing of a track with a ground communication is always secured with at least one warning cross piece. More than 40% of level crossings are secured with a crossing signalling device which gives the users of the ground communication a warning of a train approaching.

The Railway Infrastructure Administration, state organization assumed the total of 8585 level crossings in its documentation from Czech Railways on the day of its incorporation, i.e. as of 1.1.2003 and registered the total of 8507 level crossings as of 31.12.2004.

Overview of level crossings according to their interlocking

Level Crossings total	8 507
Warning cross pieces	4 874
Crossing security device with gates	1 535
Crossing security device – signalling without gates	2 098

Overview of accidents on level crossings according to their interlocking

Type of crossing security	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004
Warning cross pieces	109	111	110
Crossing security device with gates	7	10	29
Crossing security device – signalling without gates	95	148	123
Total	211	269	262

Based on the statistics, the number of traffic accidents on railway crossings significantly increased in 2003 in comparison to 2002 and the situation in 2004 proves the fact. Although the law on the traffic on ground communications was violated by drivers of road vehicles in the majority of cases, the Railway Infrastructure Administration, s.o. constantly deals with the issue of safety on railway crossings.

The issue of safety on railway crossings is also discussed at the level of districts with working commissions permanently functioning there since 2003. These commissions consist of representatives of county councils, Railway Infrastructure Administration, s.o., Czech Railways, joint-stock company, Police ČR, Road Maintenance Administration, or some other organizations. These commissions also focus on measures for enhancing safety on railway crossings and suggest crossings on which it would be suitable to reconstruct the security device.

The best solution is to remove a level crossing of the track and the ground communication. 31 level crossings were cancelled in 2003. Other 49 crossings were cancelled in 2004 and the cancellation of a number of other crossings is being discussed.

There is a program developed within the Capital Construction Plan to enhance safety on railway crossings, and the selected crossings are equipped with a crossing device of higher

quality. The cost amounted to CZK 53 Mio. in 2003, CZK 172 Mio. in 2004 and CZK 150 Mio. is calculated for 2005. In addition to this program, another CZK 54 Mio. will be invested in 2005 to improve the state of crossings within other investment projects.

Safety on railway crossings is checked by regular controls, during which the state of crossing structure is examined as well as clear sight conditions at crossings and the state of security device. Such controls then result in repair and maintenance works.