

761—813.3(327F) Signing standards.

813.3(1) A close-clearance warning sign or signs are necessary at all locations where there is close clearance. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that all close-clearance locations have warning signs in accordance with this chapter and Iowa Code section 327F.13.

813.3(2) If an obstruction creating a close-clearance situation is a temporary or nonpermanent obstruction, in lieu of signage, the owner may remove the obstruction or remove the track from service until the obstruction is removed.

813.3(3) A close-clearance warning sign is to comply with the following:

a. Include the words “no clearance.” The letters must be black on a white reflective background and be a minimum of three inches high.

b. Be a vertical sign not less than 42 inches in height and 4 inches in width.

c. Be placed at least one foot off the ground or on the obstruction and within three feet of the close-clearance location or on the obstruction. Signs are to be located on both sides of the obstruction so as to be visible from both directions.

d. Not be within eight feet of the centerline of the tracks.

813.3(4) In the event that the placement of the close-clearance warning sign according to paragraph 813.3(3) “*c*” or “*d*” does not provide adequate notice for a person who is lawfully riding the side of a train to prepare for the close clearance (such as a curve or other sight obstruction), an additional sign reading “no clearance ahead” is to be placed in a location that provides adequate notice to the person who is lawfully riding the side of the train so that the person may prepare for the close clearance. Depending on the particular environment that makes an additional no clearance ahead sign necessary, a no clearance ahead sign may be needed on one or on both sides of the obstruction so as to be visible from both directions.

813.3(5) In the event that the physical environment prevents the placement of a warning sign in accordance with paragraph 813.3(3) “*c*” or “*d*,” the sign is to be placed in a highly visible location that is clearly indicative of the point of close clearance. An alternative size and shape of sign may be used if there is no location available where a standard size and shape sign may be used. Any alternative sign must clearly be identifiable as an indicator of the close-clearance situation.

813.3(6) In limited situations where multiple instances of insufficient clearance occur within a confined area or over a distance, and where posting of multiple warning signs could on its own be a safety hazard, or where multiple signs would create a confusing environment, making it difficult to discern the areas that lack clearance, a sign reading “no clearance ahead” may be posted in lieu of multiple signs.

813.3(7) A line or other marker is to be maintained at a distance of eight feet from the centerline of the track on all platforms, excluding passenger platforms, to indicate the space along the edge of such platform that is to be kept clear of merchandise, material or other articles that could create a temporary close-clearance situation.

[ARC 0218D, IAB 4/15/26, effective 5/20/26]