



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 247
[2011 Assembly Bill 611]

**Vehicles Required to Stop at
Railroad Crossings**

Under current law, the operator of certain vehicles, before crossing an at-grade railroad crossing, must stop the vehicle within 50 feet, but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail. Among the vehicles required to stop are motor vehicles that, in accordance with the Department of Transportation (DOT) rules, must be marked or placarded with one of the 10 specified hazardous materials markings.

2011 Wisconsin Act 247 eliminates the statutory enumeration of 10 specific hazardous materials markings. Instead, the Act requires the DOT to promulgate rules identifying classifications of markings or placarding that, consistent with federal regulations, require a marked or placarded vehicle to stop at an at-grade railroad crossing.

The DOT must submit proposed permanent rules to the Legislative Council Staff no later than August 1, 2012. However, the DOT is not required to prepare an economic impact analysis for the rule as is normally required for proposed rules. In addition, the DOT must promulgate emergency rules for the period before the effective date of the permanent rules.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on August 1, 2012, except that the rule-making provisions of the Act take effect on April 20, 2012. The Act first applies to violations committed on August 1, 2012.

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April 18, 2012

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.