



Specific Traffic Regulations

- Driving restrictions for minors -
 - Japanese traffic laws prohibit anyone under the age of 18 to operate a motor vehicle on Japanese roadways.
 - All SOFA personal with a license under the age of 18 are restricted from driving off station.
- License plates cannot be covered or obscured.
- No left turns at red lights unless otherwise permitted.
- All occupants must wear seatbelts.
- All Drivers must stop at all Railroad Tracks.



Specific Traffic Regulations

- 30 meters (100 feet)
 - Always change lanes 30 meters prior to an intersection.
 - Always execute turn signal 30 meters prior to turning.
 - Only enter bus exclusive lane 30 meters prior to turning.
- While in motion always lookout for scooters, motorcyclists, bicycles, and pedestrians, making turns, or changing lanes.
 - ALWAYS check your side mirrors and perform head checks in blind spots while driving and changing lanes or making a turn.
- Motorcyclists will weave in and out or split traffic
 - MCAS Iwakuni personnel are not authorized to split traffic. It is not safe in any situation.



Specific Traffic Regulations



- Do NOT use your cell phone while driving on or off station.
- This includes holding phone in your hand for any reason.
- No headsets are allowed with driving or riding anything.



Specific Traffic Regulations



- Children up to 2 years old or 20 pounds should be in a rear-facing child's safety seat in the back seat.
- Children up to 5 years old or 45 pounds should be in a forward-facing child's safety seat in the back seat.
- Children up to 8 years old or 80 pounds should be in a booster safety seat in the back seat.



Loaning or borrowing a Car?

Need to get authorization at PMO Pass and Registration.

Make sure they know NOT to use their cell phone while driving.

Make sure they know NOT to drink and drive while operating your vehicle.



DUI/DWI



You will also be charged if:

- Provide a vehicle to a person who has been drinking.
- Provide alcohol to a driver of a vehicle.
- Riding as a passenger in a vehicle operated by someone who is drinking.



Remember a BAC of 0.03 or higher is a DUI on- or off-station.



Involved in a Collision

- Immediately notify Military and Local Police
 - 0827-79-3322
- DO NOT leave until Military and Japanese Police have arrived and have let you go.
- Make sure you have:
 - License
 - Proof of Insurance/Registration
- You are required to report an accident to insurance agency within 72 hours.
- Do NOT exchange “*gomen money*”.
- Be respectful and never admit fault.

A photograph of a "REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE" form. The form is white with black text and is placed on a dark surface. A red circle is drawn around the "AGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS" section. The form includes fields for "ON BASE" and "OFF BASE" contact information, a section for "PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS", and a "REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE" section with numbered questions in English and Japanese. At the bottom, there is a "REMARKS" section and a note: "Invalid upon PCS, EAS separation or change of status."



Following too Close

Three-second rule

1. Select a roadside object to use as a marker. You can pick a light pole, telephone pole, traffic sign, or anything similar.
2. Once the rear end of the vehicle in front of you passes this object, begin counting. Count like this: "One thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three." It's a good way to ensure you're not counting too fast.
3. If you reach the marker after you finish counting, you're likely at a reasonable driving distance. If you pass the marker before you finish counting, you are too close. Slow down.



KPH vs MPH

10 KPH = 6.2 MPH

15 KPH = 9.3 MPH

20 KPH = 12.4 MPH

30 KPH = 18.6 MPH

40 KPH = 24.8 MPH

60 KPH = 37.2 MPH

80 KPH = 49.7MPH

Main Roadways: **40 KPH**

School Zone: **30 KPH**

Parking Lots: **15 KPH**



Traffic Citations

If you accumulate
6 points in 6 months
or

12 points in 12 months
or

18 points in 24 months

You your SOFA License will be revoked or suspended.

NOTE:

Dependents under the age of 18 required to attend traffic court
must have sponsor present for court.



Driving in Japan



If a police car with lights on and siren and/or loudspeaker come up behind you, then you must pull over.

If they have lights on only, then continue to drive as normal.



Driving in Japan



If the Police Officer points the red tip of the wand at you, you must pull over.

If the Police Officer points the white tip of the wand at you, it's a warning.



Driving in Japan

If a bus has a right turn signal on, stop and let them enter traffic. Buses have right of way and it's not safe or legal to interfere with them.





Driving in Japan

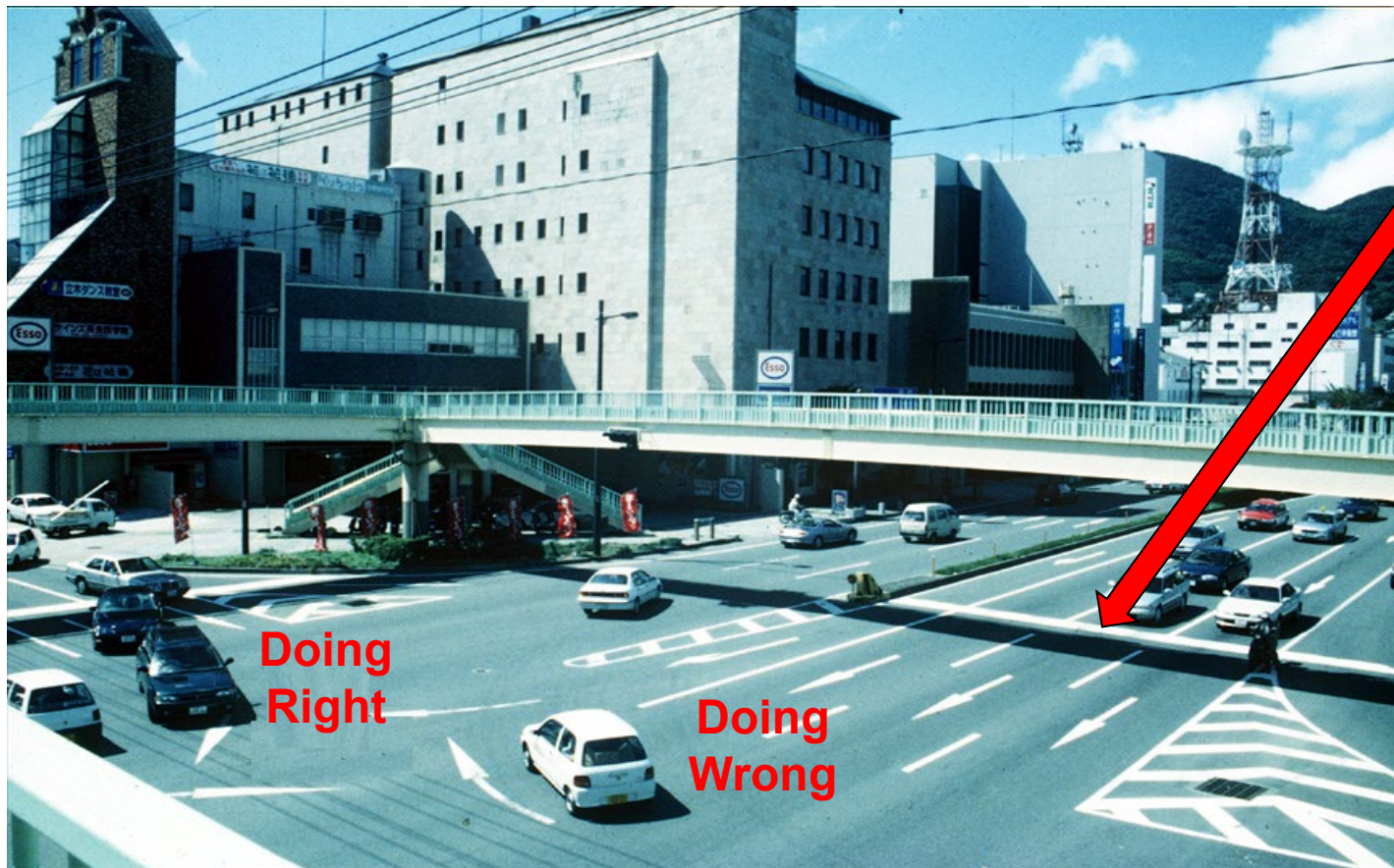


When children or an elderly person are crossing the road, they will use a yellow flag or raise their hand, to make themselves more visible to vehicles.



Right Turns at Big Intersections

If in the lead, drive up to the tip of the arrow and when clear, cross over in the direction of the arrow.

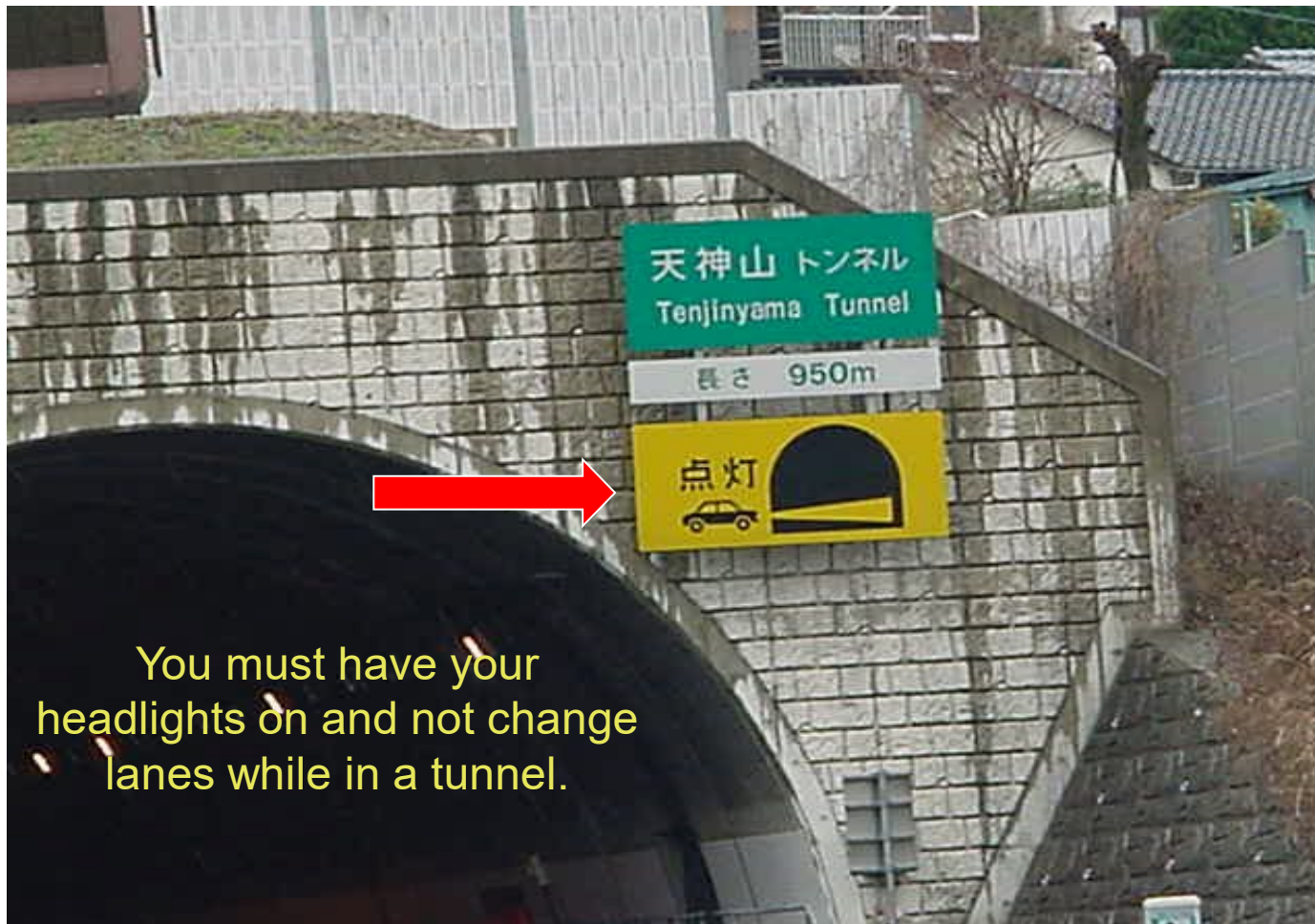


Make sure to stop at designated stop line.

It is illegal to change lanes in an intersection!



Tunnel Regulations

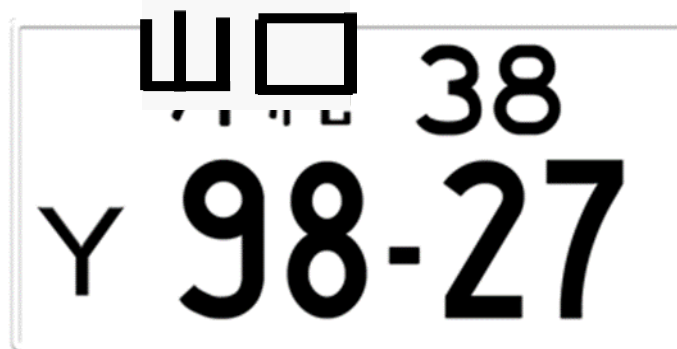


You must have your headlights on and not change lanes while in a tunnel.



Additional Information

- Vehicles registered to SOFA personnel can be identified as “A”, “Y”, and “E”.
- Vehicles registered to Japanese Nationals can be identified by Japanese letters.
- Japanese Nationals CANNOT operate vehicles registered to SOFA personnel.
- UNDER CERTAIN SITUATIONS SOFA personnel can operate Kanji plated vehicles.
 - **Always check with (PMO) Pass and Registration prior to loaning or borrowing any vehicle.**
- MUST have a valid SOFA license for driving a SOFA vehicle in Japan.
- MUST have minimum insurance coverage IAW SOFA Rules.





JCI Insurance Information



- Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI) is good for a max of two years on a used vehicle when it was done last which can be different from purchase date of vehicle.
- JCI does transfer with the vehicle.



PDI Insurance Information



- Secondary/Property Damage Insurance (PDI) does not transfer with the vehicle.
- A driver can acquire PDI through Chubb or AGI Insurance companies.



Required paperwork



- To operate a vehicle, you must have your current SOFA license with you.
- Current JCI paperwork is required to be in the vehicle.
- Current PDI paperwork is required to be in the vehicle.
- Current Road Tax paperwork is required to be in the vehicle.



Stop





Proceed Slowly



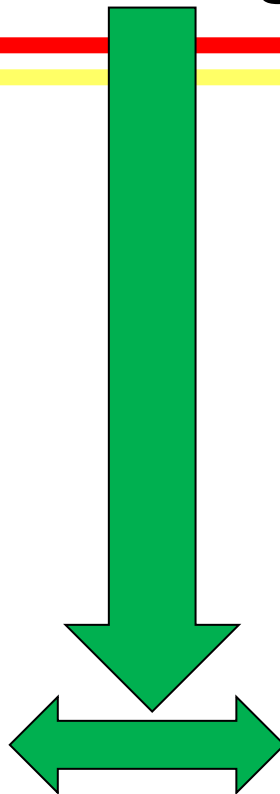
Most mistake this as a Yield sign.
In Japan, this does not assign a right of way at intersections
like a yield sign does in the US.



Stop and Proceed Slowly Main Road has Right of Way



前方優先道路



前方優先道路



Road Closed (To everything)





Road Closed to All Vehicles





Road Closed to Motor Vehicles except Motorcycles





Road Closed to Motor Vehicles





Road Closed to Motorcycles and Mopeds





Road Closed to Bicycles





Road Closed to Light
Vehicles except
Bicycles



Road Closed to Large
Sized Passenger
Vehicles



Road Closed to Large
Sized Trucks



No U-Turns





No Right Turns or Crossing





No Passing





ROAD CLOSED
TO PEDESTRIANS



NO PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING



Do Not Enter or No Entry





MAXIMUM
WIDTH

MAXIMUM
HEIGHT



WEIGHT
LIMIT



**Minimum Speed
Limit**



**Maximum Speed
Limit**



Maximum Speed Limit and End of Speed Limit Restriction





End Of Restriction Zone Signs and Markings



**End Of Restriction Zone
Road Marking (U-Turn
Specific)**



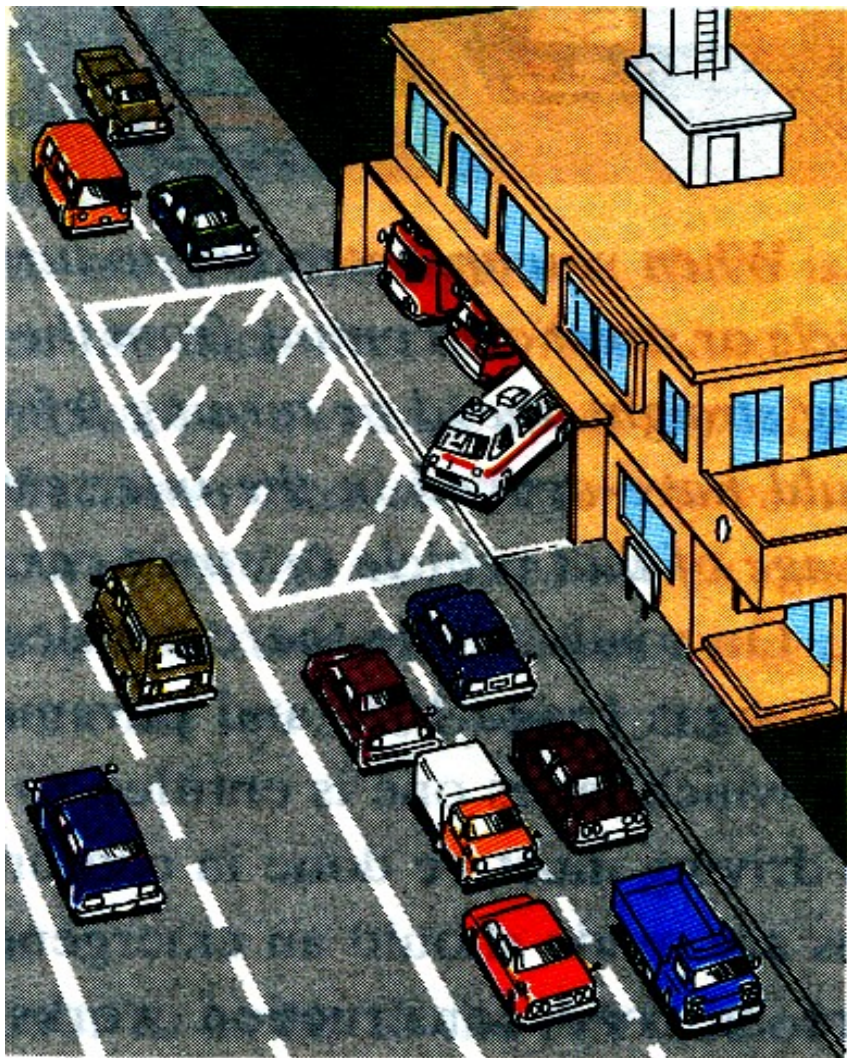
**End Of
Restriction Zone
Sign**



**End Of Restriction Zone
Road Marking (Speed
Specific)**



Driving in Japan



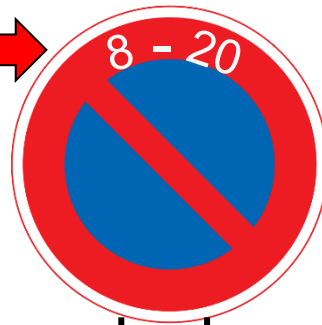
Vehicles are prohibited from stopping in the area marked by white box.



Blue in middle is for parking



No Parking



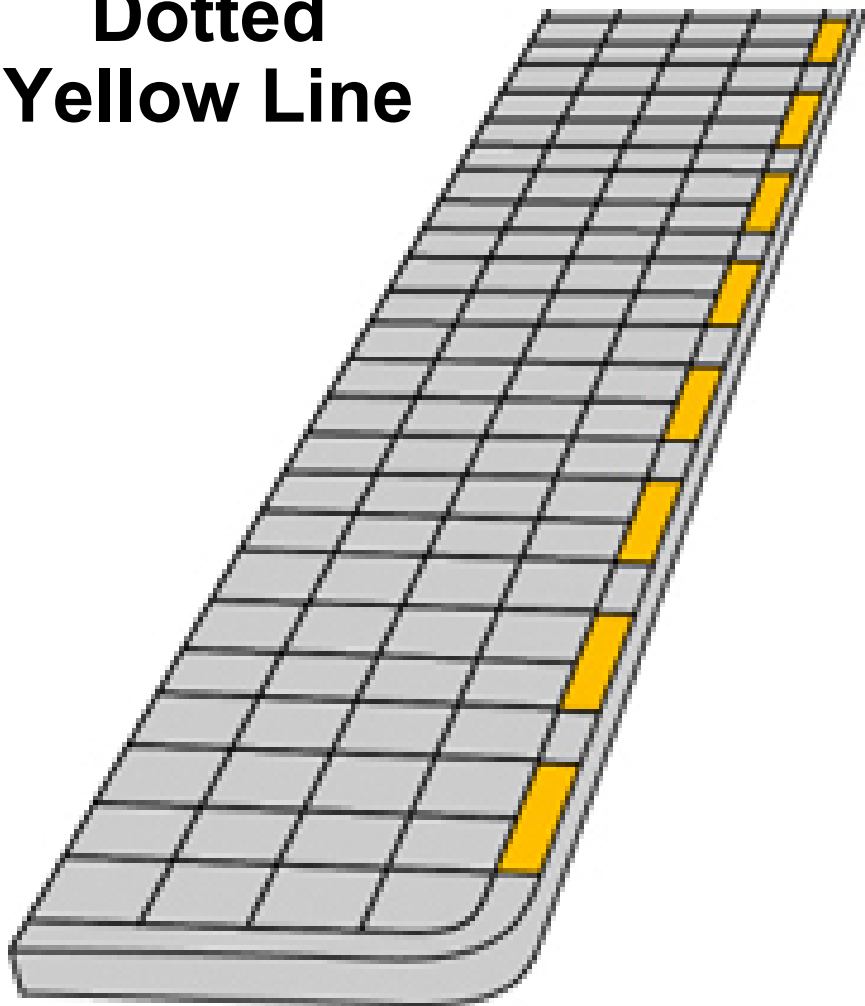
No Parking / No Stopping



No Parking within 6
meters of this sign in
both directions between
0800-2000



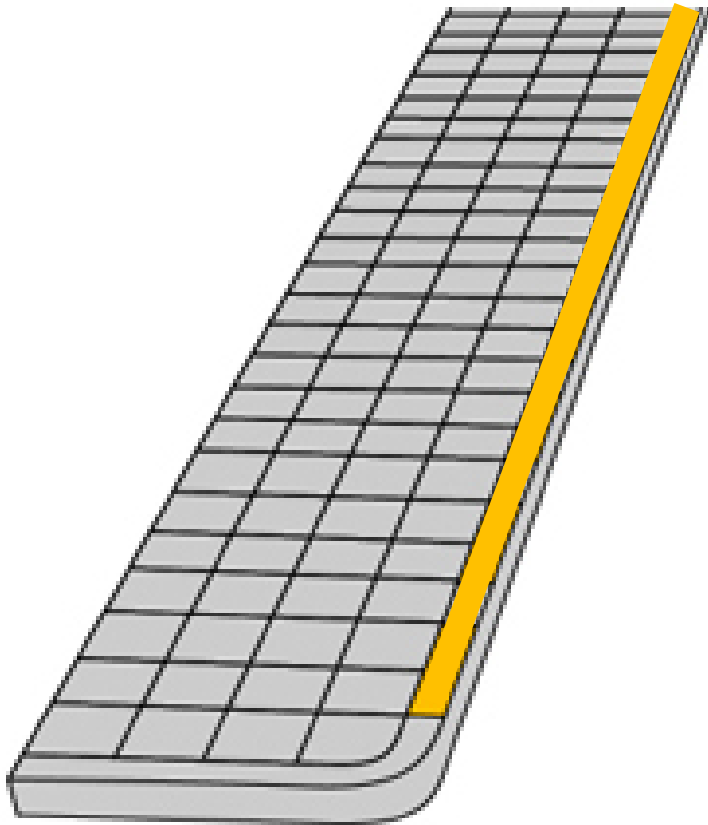
**Dotted
Yellow Line**



**No Parking,
Temporary
Stopping is
Allowed**

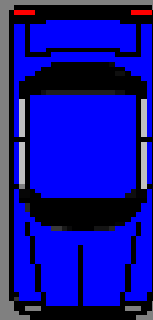
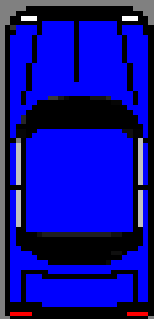
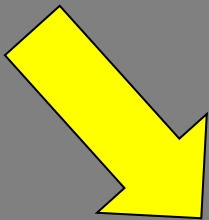


Solid Yellow Line on the Curb

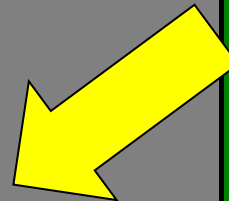


**No Parking or
Stopping**

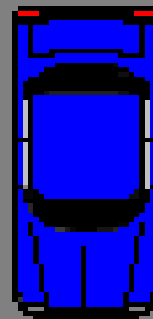
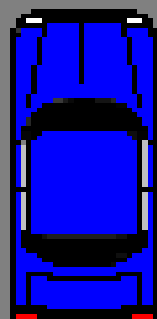
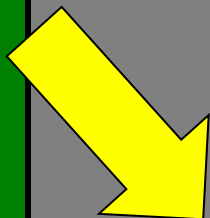
**Vehicles
may Park
and Stop
in the
side lane
but must
leave at
least .75
meters or
more on
left side
of vehicle**



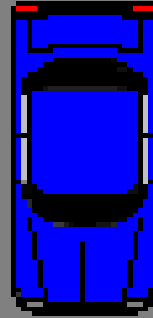
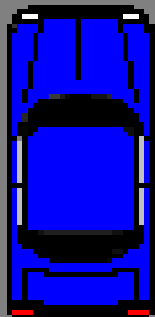
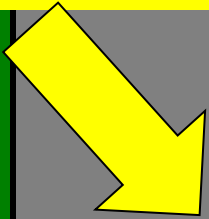
**Light
Vehicles and
Motorcycles
may use the
Shoulder for
Passing**



**Prohibited
from Parking
and Stopping
in the side
lane!**



**Shoulder is
Exclusively for
Pedestrians**





Parking Permitted



**Parking Permitted
From 0800 to 2000
for 60 min**

**Stopping
Permitted**





**Main Road Has
Right Of Way**



**Left or
Right turn
only**



**Through
Traffic Only**



**Left or Through
Traffic Only**



**Left Turn
Only**



**Direction to
be followed**



**Proceed
on the
Left**



One Way (NOT turn left on Red)





Direction Designated Lanes





Safety Zone

Do not drive in a Safety Zone





Pedestrian Crossings or Crosswalks



***Frequently
seen at School
Zones***



**Pedestrian and
bicycle crossing**



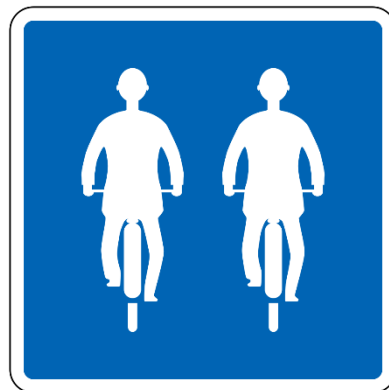
**Pedestrians
Only**



Bicycles only



**Pedestrians
and Bicycles
only**



**Riding
Abreast
Permitted**



Bus Exclusive Lane



Bus Priority Lane

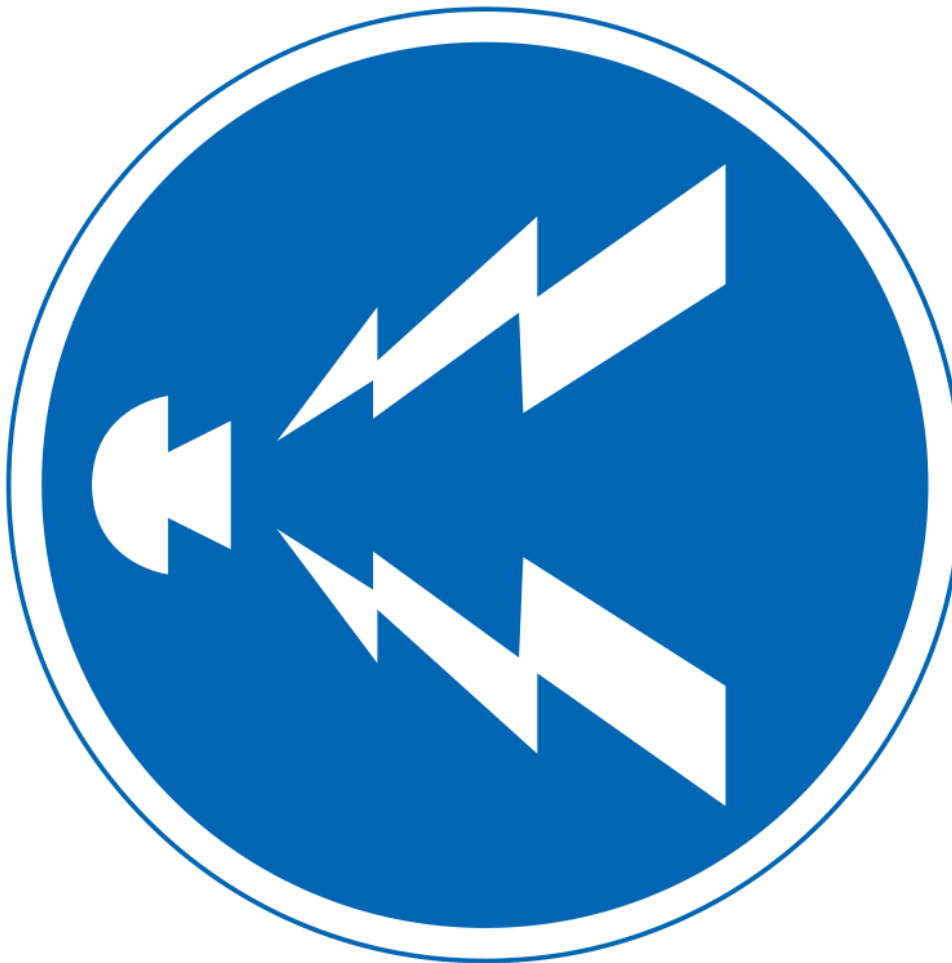


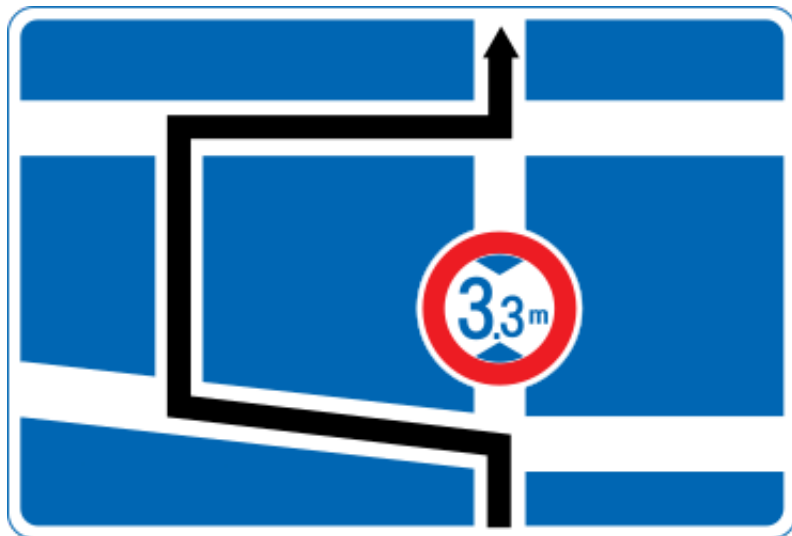
Motor Vehicles Only





Sound Horn





Detour

**Driving
on tracks
Permitted**





T -Junction



Cross Intersection



**Road Branches To
The Right**



Right Curve



**Y-Junction/
Forked Road**



Right Turn



Two-Way Traffic



**Roundabout
Or
Rotary Ahead**



Merging Traffic



Number of Lanes Reduced



Width of Road Reduced



**Right Turn
Followed by
a Left turn**



**Winding
Road**



**Gradual
Right Curve**



Up Grade



**Slippery
Road**



Down Grade



**Falling
Rocks**



Side Wind



**Railroad
crossing**

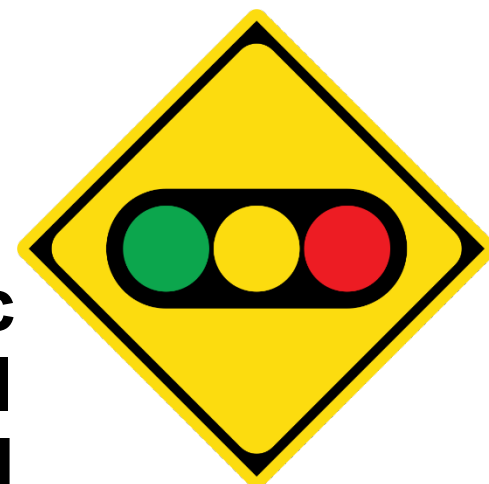


**Roadwork
Ahead**

**School
Zone**



**Traffic
Signal
Ahead**





Other Dangers or Hazards Ahead





White Diamonds on the road Indicate an Approaching Crosswalk

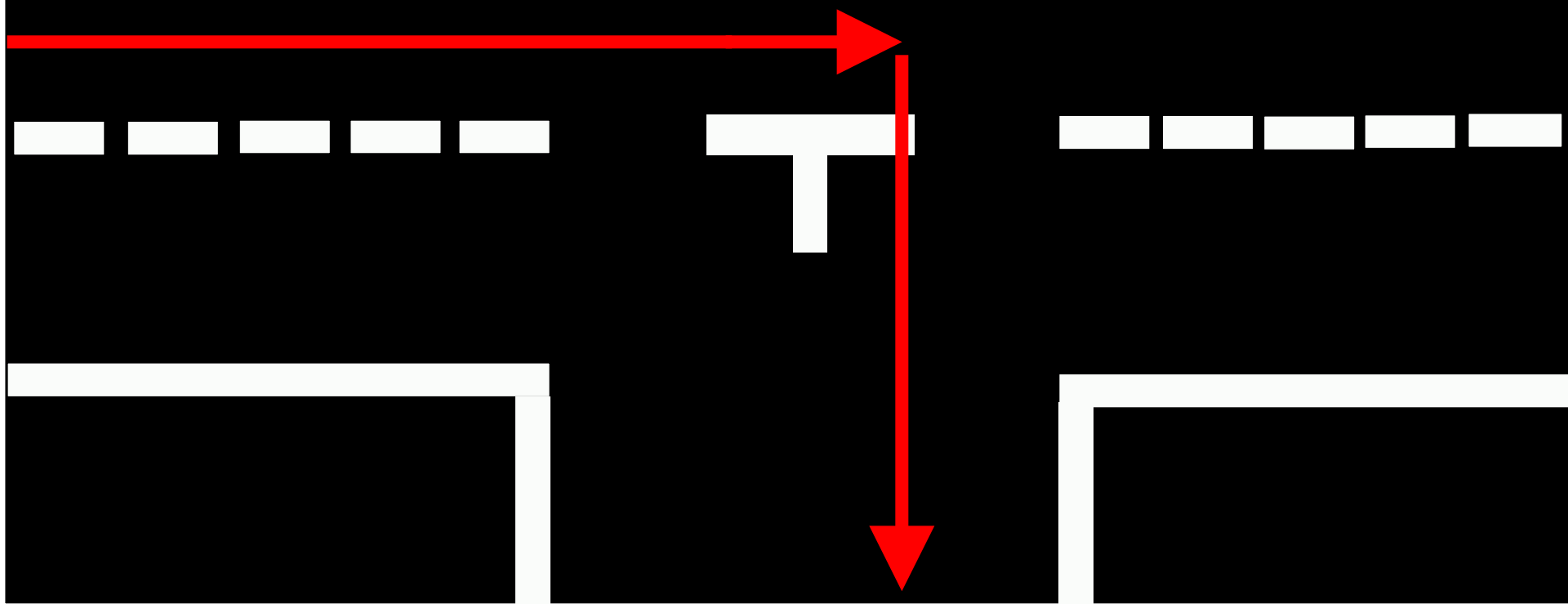




When making righthand turns



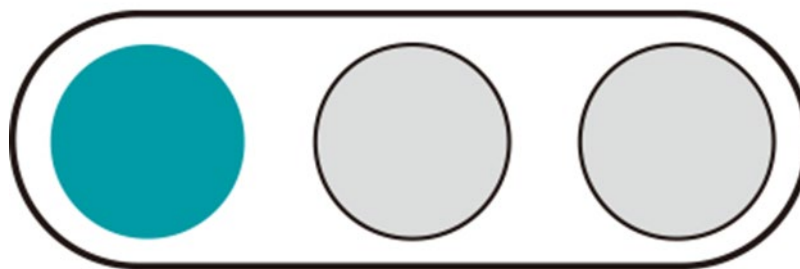
Turn at the T!





Obeying Traffic Signals

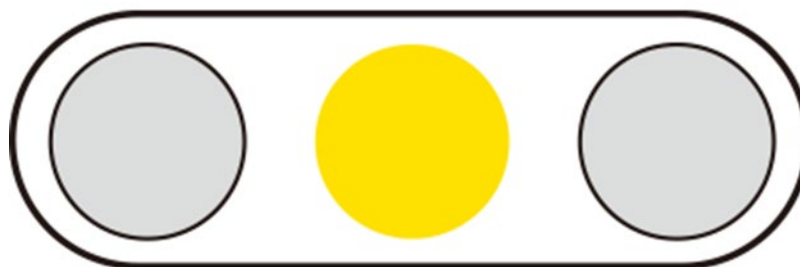
Green Light



Allows vehicles to proceed straight or make a left or right turn.



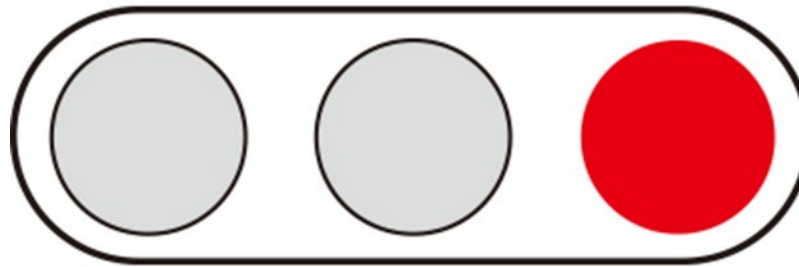
Obeying Traffic Signals Yellow Light



Requires vehicles to stop at the stopping line. If the vehicle is already at the intersection or unable to stop safely, proceed clear the intersection in a safe manner.



Obeying Traffic Signals Red Light

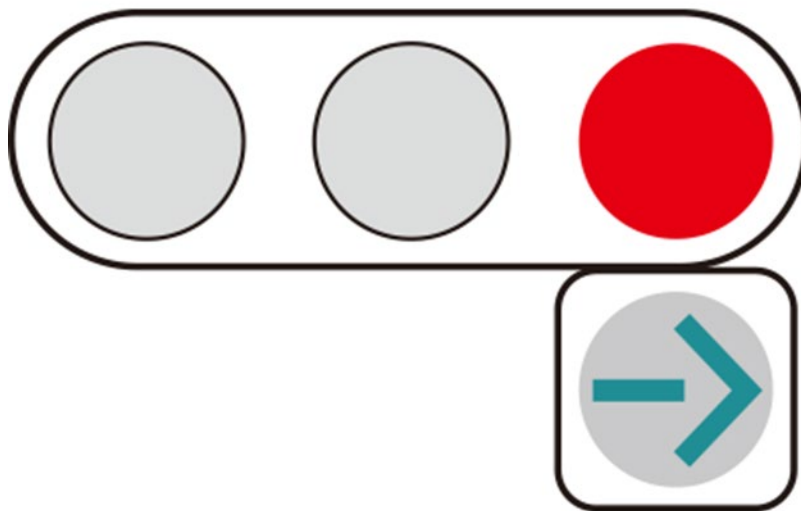


Vehicles must stop on the stop line. If a vehicle is in the intersection to turn left or right, you may continue to make the turn. Vehicles cannot turn left at a red light.



Obeying Traffic Signals

Red Light with Green Arrow

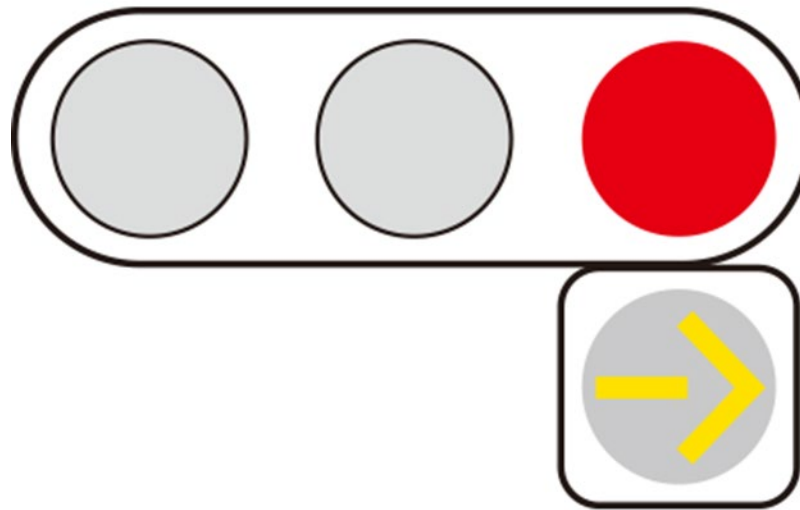


Vehicles may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow



Obeying Traffic Signals

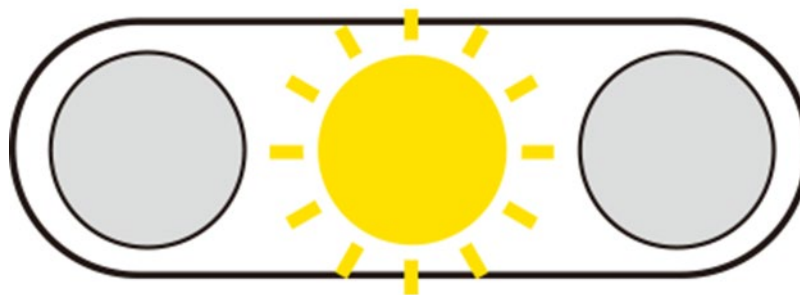
Red Light with Yellow Arrow



STREETCARS may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow.



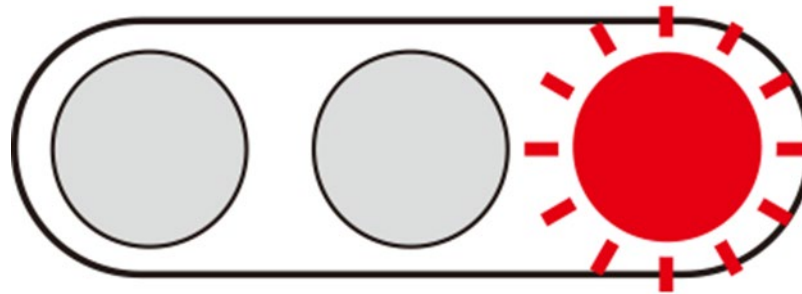
Obeying Traffic Signals Flashing Yellow Light



Vehicles may proceed while exercising due caution with regards to other traffic.



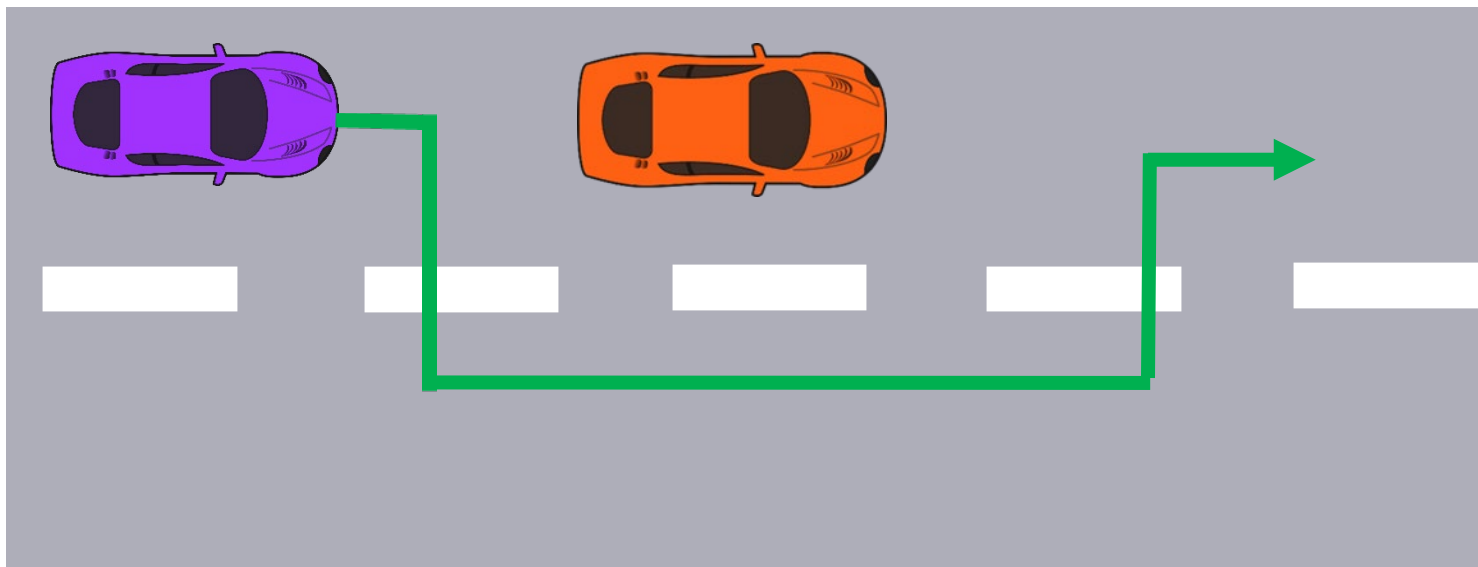
Obeying Traffic Signals Flashing Red Light



Vehicles must make a temporary stop to confirm safety and to resume operation only after confirmation.



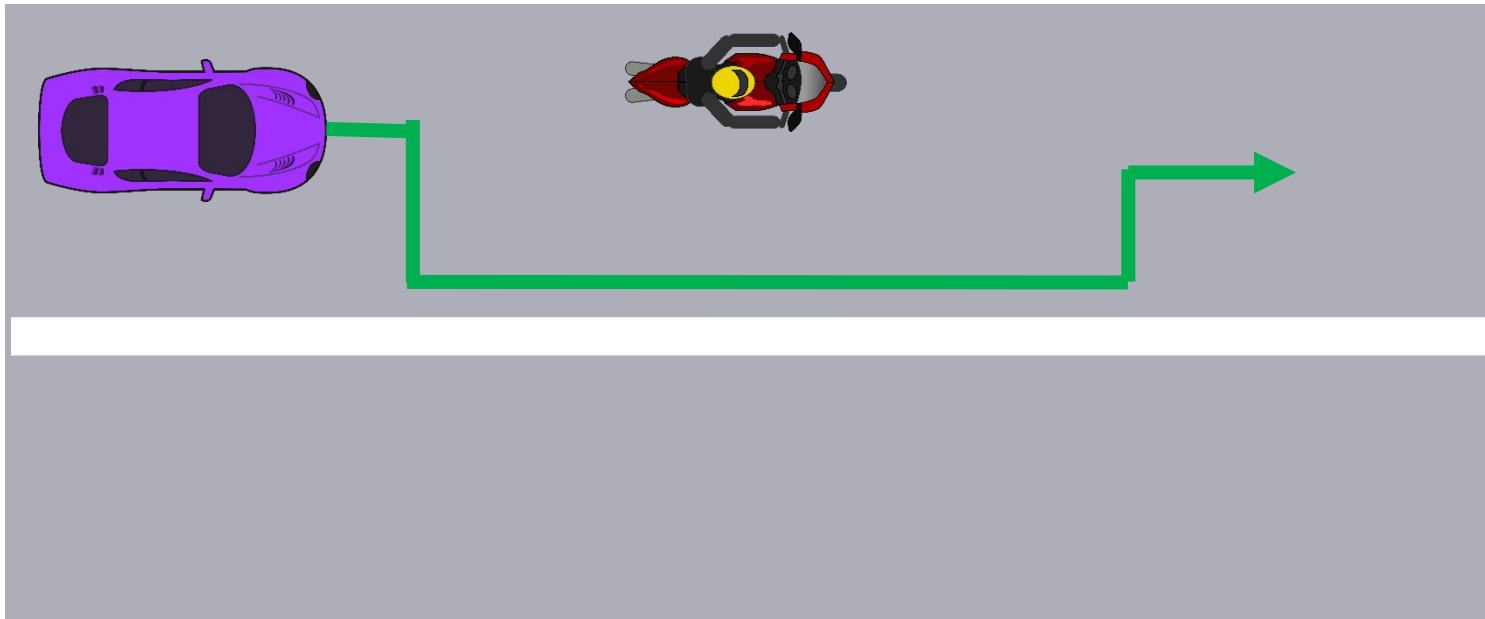
Center Line – Broken White Line



If the center line is a broken white line, vehicles may pass other vehicles using the other lane.



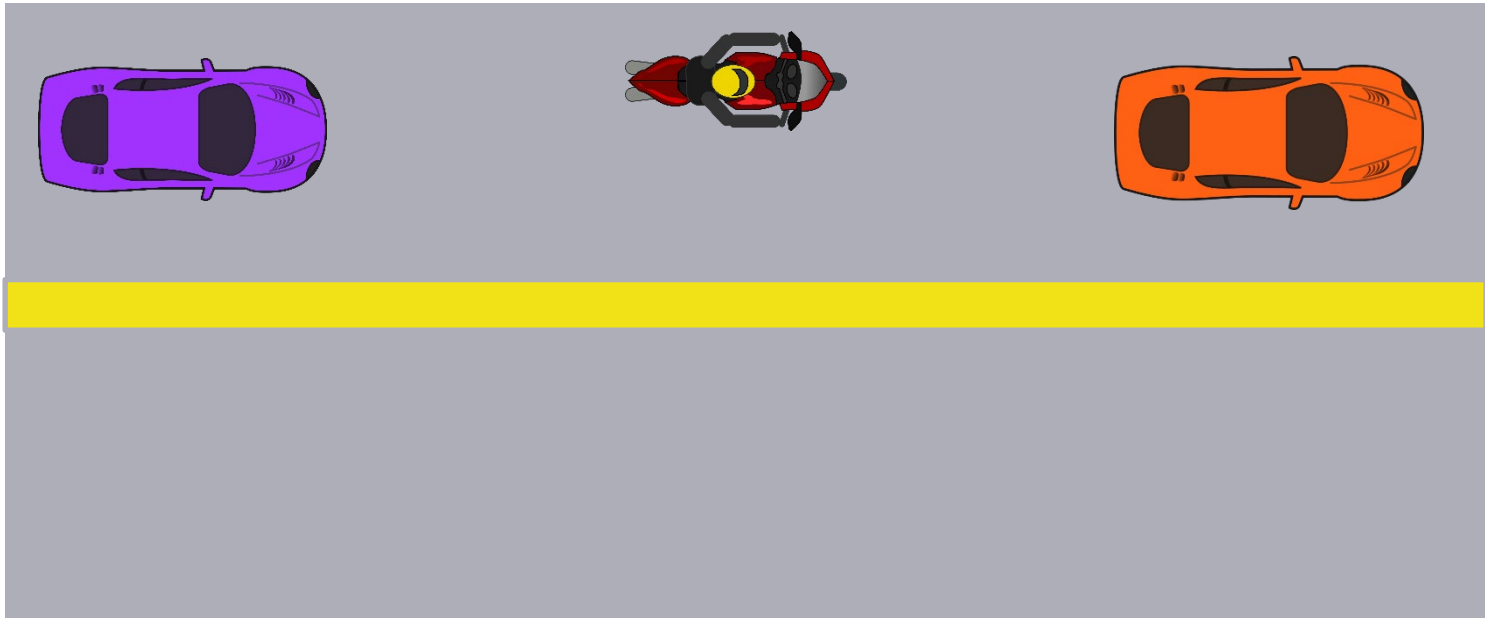
Center Line – Solid White Line



If the center line is a solid white line, vehicles may pass however, vehicles cannot go past the center line. This is typically done when overtaking motorcycles.



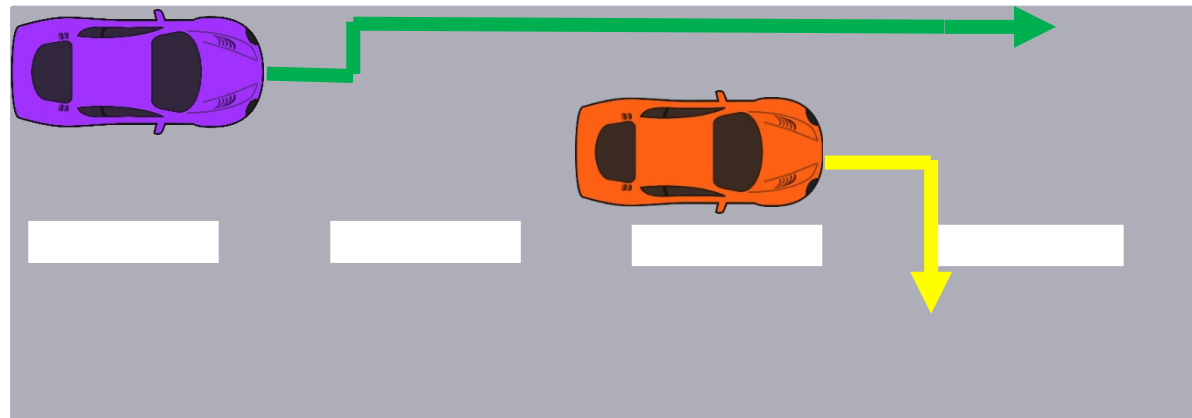
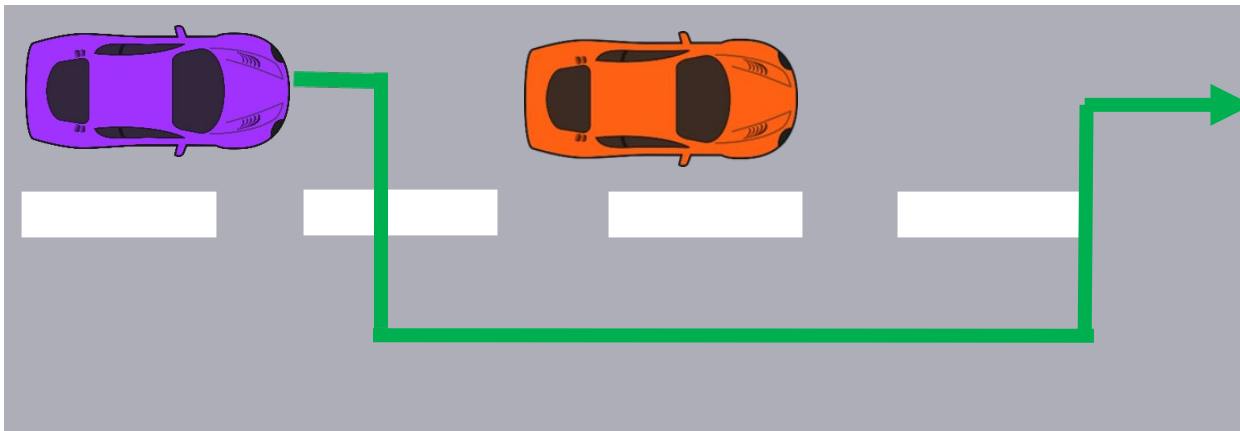
Center Line – Solid Yellow Line



No passing is allowed.



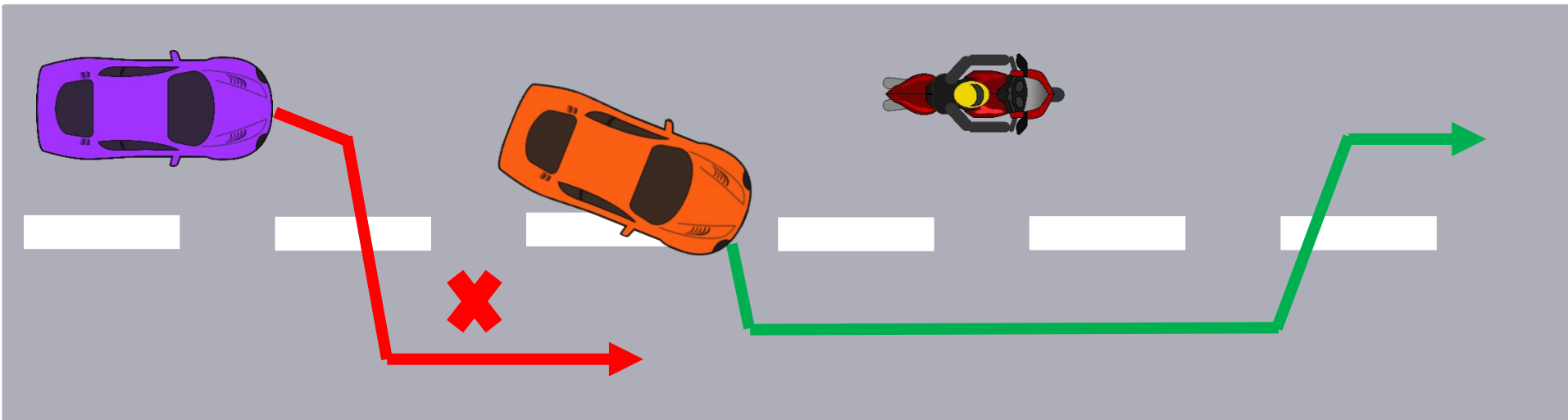
Passing Other Vehicles



When vehicles attempts to overtake another vehicle, it must pass the vehicle from the right side of the vehicle. However, if the vehicle in front is making a right turn, the vehicle may pass from the left.



Double Passing



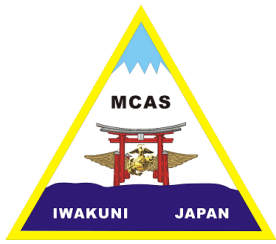
If the front vehicle is attempting to overtake another vehicle, the rear vehicle cannot overtake and pass.



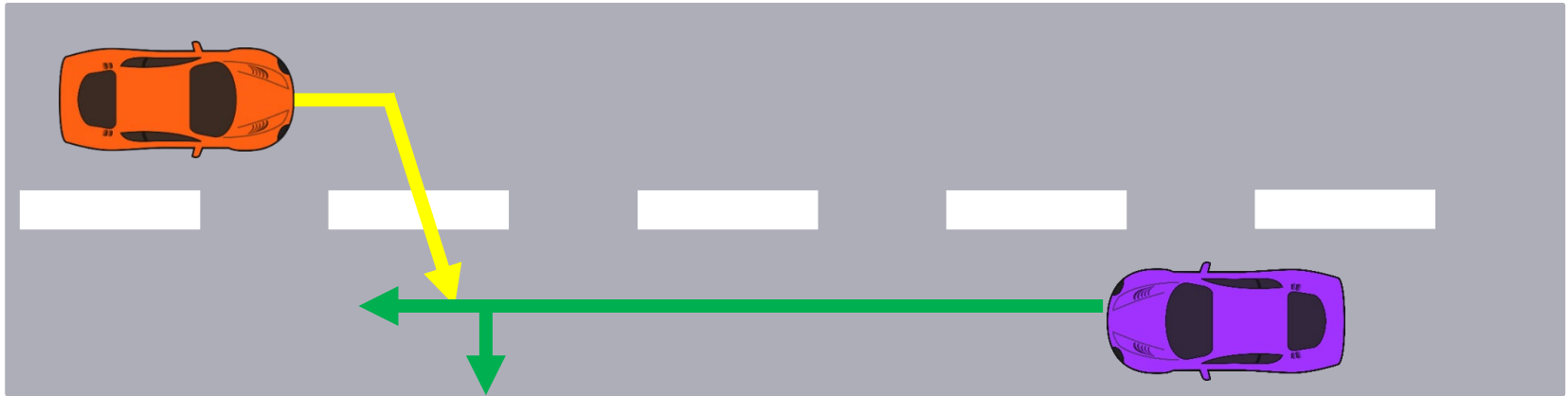
Parking in Japan

- There is an unwritten rule in Japan that drivers always reverse into parking spaces and then drive forward when leaving the space. This is because parking spaces are tight, and it is easier and safer when leaving a space for a driver to be able to see oncoming traffic. Also, because this is the norm across Japan, local drivers and pedestrians will not be looking out for cars backing out of a parking space, which may cause an accident. For these reasons, it is important that you are comfortable with reversing into a car spot when driving in Japan





Vehicles turning right must yield



- In Japan, vehicles turning left get the right-of-way. If you are turning right, the oncoming vehicle has the right-of-way. Wait until the oncoming vehicle has gone straight or turned left before you turn right



Flashing hazard lights to thank other drivers



- Japanese drivers customarily thank other drivers by using the emergency blinkers (they turn them on for a couple of seconds). If you want to thank a driver who is not behind your car, a small head bow or wave will also suffice.



Driving on the Narrow Streets and Roads



- Many of the roads in Japan are very narrow. Some roads have only 1 lane but used for 2 ways traffic. Often there are mirrors on bends, to show oncoming traffic. Use these where they're available.
- Remember to GO SLOWLY and to look as far ahead of you as you can at any chance you get where the road opens. It gives you a better chance of spotting oncoming vehicles that might be two or three bends ahead of you.
- There are generally enough passing places, but you may have to reverse a bit to get to one.





Aggressive/Reckless Driving



- Japan has one of the strictest laws in the world when it comes to aggressive/reckless driving
- You can be charged for reckless driving if you:
 - Drive too slowly on the expressway
 - Park or stop on the expressway
 - Break check
 - Tailgate
 - Making a sudden lane change
 - Repeatedly honk the car horn
 - Keeping the high beam light directed at the vehicle in front
 - Dangerous overtake
 - Going over the traffic line to intimidate drivers
 - Weaving in and out of traffic



Driving on Expressways/Toll Roads



- Driving on the expressway is one of the best ways to get your destinations that public transportation doesn't offer convenient access to.
- Here are important rules you will have to follow:
 - Drive on the left side of the road and pass traffic only on the right side.
 - Do not stop or park anywhere on the road apart from designated areas. This includes the hard shoulder.
 - Use hazard lights to denote that you have joined the end of a traffic jam.
 - Be careful with using high beams when approaching oncoming traffic.
 - U-turns and reverses on the Expressway are prohibited.



How to Pay the Expressway Toll



- If you are paying by cash or card, at the entrance and exit tollgates, enter the General Lane





How to Pay the Expressway Toll



- At the Entrance tollgate, collect your toll pass ticket from the automatic ticket machine.





How to Pay the Expressway Toll



- At the Exit tollgate, hand your toll pass ticket to the attendant and pay the toll with cash or a credit card. Cash payment must be in Japanese yen.





How to Pay the Expressway Toll



- If your vehicle is set up with ETC, Electronic Toll Collection, which is like EZ pass in the states, then proceed through the ETC tollgate.

