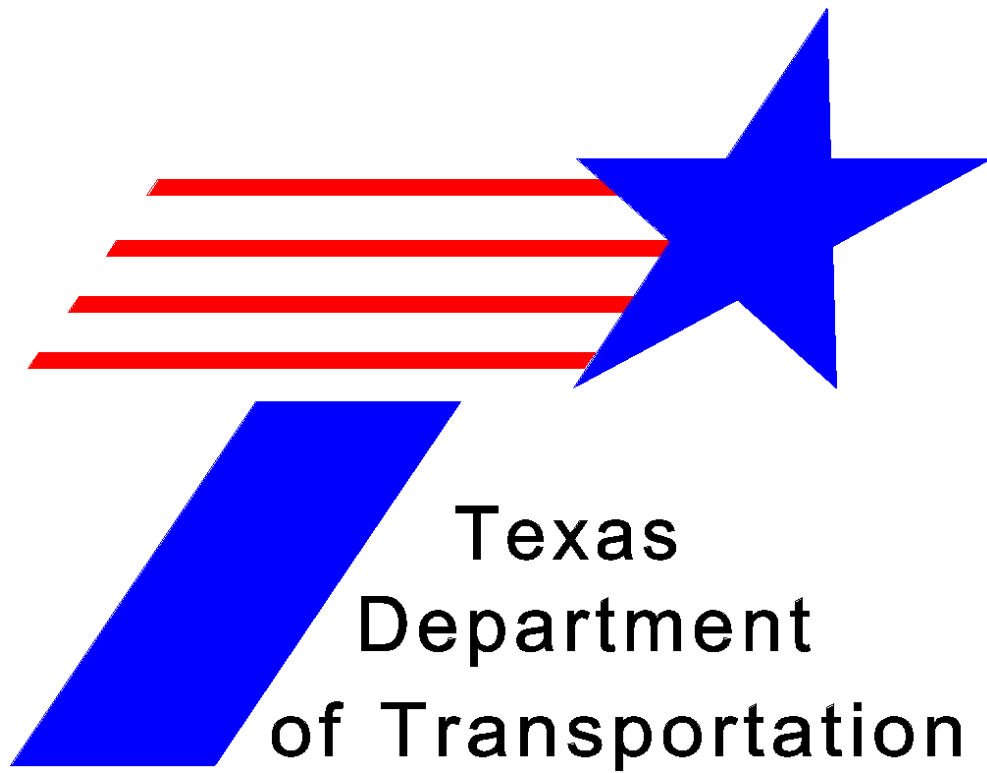


# **Traffic Recorder Instruction Manual Manual Notices Archive**



## Manual Notice 2012-1

**From:** James L. Randall, P.E., Director, TPP Division

**Manual:** *Traffic Recorder Instruction Manual*

**Effective Date:** February 01, 2012

### Purpose

This update improves criteria and visual representations which are used when traffic counters categorize vehicles into specific classifications. Additionally, this update documents recommendations of the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) with hyperlinks to the FHWA Traffic Monitoring Guide and 13-Category Scheme of vehicle classifications.

### Contents

#### Revisions to Chapter 4

- ◆ Section 1, FHWA 13-Category Scheme, 1st Paragraph
  - A new hyperlink documents that the FHWA recommends that highway agencies use the FHWA 13-Category Scheme when classifying vehicles.
- ◆ Section 1, FHWA 13-Category Scheme, 2nd Paragraph
  - A new hyperlink documents that the FHWA-13 Category Scheme separates vehicles into categories that carry passengers or commodities.
- ◆ Section 1, Figure 4-1, FHWA 13-Category Scheme (delete former graphic; replace with new graphic)
  - Classes 1-13. A new graphic developed by TxDOT provides a clear, visual representation of the appropriate vehicle in each class of the FHWA 13-Category Scheme.
- ◆ Section 1, Classification Table, FHWA 13-Category Scheme
  - Class 2, Passenger Cars, Additional Identifiers. Deleted the wording, **import pickup**;
  - Class 3, Pickups, Panels, Vans, Additional Identifiers. Added the wording, **and long-bed pickups**;
  - Class 5, Single-unit Trucks, Additional Identifiers. Deleted the wording, **long-bed pickup with extended cab**.
- ◆ Section 2, Vehicle Classification Descriptions
  - Class 2, Passenger Cars, bulleted items. Deleted the wording, **import pickups**;
  - Class 3, Pickups, Panels, Vans, bulleted items. Added the wording, **and long-bed**;

- Class 5, Single-Unit Trucks, bulleted items. Deleted the wording, **Chevy, Ford, and Dodge long-bed (eight-foot) pickups with extended cabs.**

### **Revision to Appendix A**

- ◆ FHWA 13-Category Scheme (delete former graphic; replace with new graphic)
  - A new graphic developed by TxDOT provides a clear, visual representation of the appropriate vehicle in each class of the FHWA 13-Category Scheme.
  - This is the same new graphic developed for Chapter 4, Figure 4-1.

### **Contact**

Readers may direct questions or suggestions for this manual to the Traffic Analysis Section of the Transportation Planning and Programming Division, (512) 486-5101.

### **Archives**

Past manual notices are available in a [PDF archive](#).

## Manual Notice 2011-1

**From:** James L. Randall, P.E., Director, TPP Division

**Manual:** Traffic Recorder Instruction Manual

**Effective Date:** April 01, 2011

### Purpose

This new manual has been developed to provide safe and accurate procedures for TxDOT personnel who manually classify, count, and record traffic data and transmit the data in paper and electronic formats.

### Contents

Chapter 1, **Introduction**, states the focus of the manual, the importance of traffic data, a general description of collecting reliable data, and definitions that are necessary to understanding the activity of manual traffic counts.

Chapter 2, **Safety**, requires proper use of state vehicles and safety attire, and gives guidance for collisions, strandings, and working in difficult or dangerous situations. Resources for road condition reports are also provided.

Chapter 3, **Preparing for Counts**, identifies necessary preparations prior to traveling, such as obtaining the correct traffic counting equipment and supplies; synchronizing timepieces; and reviewing scheduled assignments, station locations, and safe parking/leaving practices.

Chapter 4, **Classifying Vehicles**, provides an illustration and descriptive text for the FHWA 13-Category Scheme, essential to TxDOT personnel for accurately classifying vehicles during manual counts.

Chapter 5, **Counting Vehicles**, uses text, tables, and graphics to give instructions for three scenarios of counting vehicles and recording them by classification with a mechanical tally counter.

Chapter 6, **Using Form 1617A**, explains how to correctly report classification counts and the weather and traffic conditions on Form 1617A.

Chapter 7, **Communications**, instructs TxDOT's traffic counting personnel when to report problems to supervisors and how to communicate favorably with the public and law enforcement.

The manual also provides the following appendices:

Appendix A - Graphic of the FHWA 13-Category Scheme used for vehicle classification.

Appendix B - Example of Form 1617A (official paper size is 11" x 17").

Appendix C - TxDOT district map and code numbers.

Appendix D - Example of a counting schedule.

Appendix E - Station examples (with GPS location descriptions).

Appendix F - Header information examples for Form 1617A.

Appendix G - Texas counties and TxDOT code numbers.

Appendix H - Identification of formats to submit collected traffic data to TPP.

## **Contact**

Readers may direct questions or suggestions for this manual to the Traffic Analysis Section of the Transportation Planning and Programming Division, (512) 486-5101.

## **Archives**

This new manual has no archive of manual notices.