



Grade Crossing Inventory System (GCIS)
Release v3.0.0 (01/27/2021)
Release Notes

GCIS Release Notes
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This document is intended for Railroad and State GCIS application users. The following items are for planned GCIS 3.0.0 release on January 27, 2021.

1. Web Form, API Data Submissions, and/or FRA Approved Excel Templates Data Upload, and other GCIS Functionality

- a. **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been changed, so that when a user clicks on “Update Crossings”, the user does not have to first click on the Crossing box, but instead can immediately enter the crossing number, then click on “Update”, to retrieve the “Update Existing Crossing” full Inventory web form.
- b. **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been fixed, so that a Delegated Railroad can update/add new crossing Railroad Short forms, for their delegating agency(ies), from the GCIS web application’s “Multiple Forms Filed: Actions Needed” tab.
- c. **WEB FORM:** The “Pending Crossing Records” grid, from the GCIS Home Page, now also includes pending records created when “Reason for Update” was not selected in the “Update Existing Crossing” and “Add New Crossing” web forms. This type of pending record will now be displayed as “Reason for update not set” under the “Report Type” column of the grid.
 - i) **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been fixed, so that State users cannot update Railroad fields, in **Part I Location and Classification Information** and **Part II Railroad Information** (these fields are not enabled for the State, in the “Update Existing Crossing” web form).
- d. **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been changed to allow a user to enter the period (“.”) character as part of entry to **I.6. Highway Type & No.**, in the web form.
- e. **WEB FORM:** In “Update Existing Crossing” web form, **I.12 RR Milepost** label has been fixed to display “(nnnn.nnn)” to match the Inventory form.
- g. **WEB FORM AND FILE DOWNLOAD:** For **I.25. Quiet Zone**, GCIS now provides the date that I.25 was updated, if known.
A tool tip has been included for **I.25 Quiet Zone**, in the web forms for "View Existing Crossing" and "Update Existing Crossing" functionalities. This tool tip displays the Quiet



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Zone Update Date (i.e., the date that FRA updated the I.25 fields in the GCIS database). The user can display the tool tip, if the date I.25 was updated, is known, by moving/placing the cursor over the **I.25 Quiet Zone** box.

In addition, a QuietZone.csv file has been included in the file download data from GCIS application's **File Download**. This file contains the Agency's crossing numbers, and for crossings that have values in the Quiet Zone field, the Quiet Zone data is included in the file. The date that FRA last updated the Quiet Zone data, if available in GCIS, is also included in this file.\

- h. **WEB FORM, API SUBMISSIONS, EXCEL UPLOADS** GCIS now validates **Part I** and **Part II** fields, for Railroad Short Form (minor report type), when Delegated Agencies update GCIS for Delegating Railroads.
- i. **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been changed so that it does not allow State agencies to update Railroad data field items in **Part II**, in the "Update Existing Crossing" web form, if there is a pending crossing record created by the Railroad.
- j. **WEB FORM:** The GCIS application has been fixed to allow the entry of blanks and other characters (hyphens, periods, commas, etc.), for item **III.2.L LED Enhanced Signs**, when updating a web form.
- k. **WEB FORM, API SUBMISSIONS, EXCEL UPLOADS:** GCIS processing was modified for **III.3.F Installation Date of Current Active Warning Devices**.

When opening an "Add New Crossing" web form, GCIS will default to the "Not Required" checkbox, in III.3.F. If user enters a quantity in one of train activated warning device items, he/ she can uncheck the "Not Required" box, and enter a date (MM/YYYY), if a date is required.

GCIS associates the following train activated warning devices, with III.3.F, as shown in the table:

Train Activated Warning Devices related to III.3.F, in GCIS	
Item	Type of Train Activated Warning Devices
III.3.A	Gate Arms: Roadway, Pedestrian
III.3.C	Cantilevered Flashing Lights
III.3.D	Mast Mounted Flashing Lights
III.3.E	Flashing Light Pairs
III.3.H	Highway Traffic Signals Controlling Crossing
III.3.I	Bells
III.3.K	Other Flashing Lights or Warning Devices



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For Web Form, in the “Update Existing Crossing”, if user submits a check mark in front of “Not Required”, for III.3.F, then GCIS saves a code of “-1” to the backend file (to indicate “Not Required”).

For API Submission, user can submit a date in the following format: "AwdIDate": "MM/YYYY" (e.g., "AwdIDate": "05/2020"); or "AwdIDate": "-1" to indicate “Not Required”.

For Excel Uploads, user can enter in the spreadsheet cell for III.3.F. either a date as “MM/YYYY”, or “n/a” to indicate “Not Required”. For the value “n/a”, GCIS saves a code of “-1” to the backend database, to indicate “Not Required”.

1. **API SUBMISSIONS, EXCEL UPLOADS:**

Items referred to in the below description, are: **III.4.A. Does nearby Hwy Intersection have Traffic Signals?** (hwynrsig), **III.4.B. Hwy Traffic Signal Interconnection** (intrprmp), and **III.4.C. Hwy Traffic Signal Preemption** (preemptype).

GCIS has been modified, for the above items, to handle submission of data, when submitted via API or Excel uploads, in similar way to the entry/submission of data in these items in the web form.

GCIS processes the values submitted, with III.4.B. depending on what is in III.4.A, and III.4.C depending on what is entered in III.4.A and III.4.B.

For example, GCIS changes III.4.B to “Not Interconnected”, if III.4.A. is “No”, and then blanks out the value in III.4.C. (if there is a value), based on the value specified in III.4.B.

m. **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been fixed to display the text for other Crossing Surfaces, in **IV.5, Crossing Surface on Main Track/10. Other** in the “Update Existing Crossing” web form.

n. **WEB FORM, API SUBMISSIONS, AND/OR EXCEL UPLOADS:**

GCIS no longer auto corrects Crossing Surface Width and Length to the minimum valid values, when values less than the minimum are entered. Instead, GCIS validates **IV.5, Crossing Surface Width and Length**, at the field level, in the web form, by prompting the user with a message displaying the range of valid values, when a user enters an invalid value.

This validation is also applicable for API submissions and Excel uploads for add a new crossing.

o. **WEB FORM:** GCIS has been modified, so that a red border may display around WD10-1 when quantity is not provided (for the case of there being a value in the advwarn field in the database, that indicates there is WD10-1 advanced warning sign(s)) for **III.2.D.**



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Advanced Warning Signs. A user may enter 0, or valid values 1-9, if the red box is displayed, depending on quantity, in the “Updated Existing Crossing” web form.

- p. **EXCEL:** The Excel file Templates, for Railroad Full Inventory form (Grade Crossing Inventory Form Template RR Full Inv. Record v3.0.0 Rel. 01-27-2021.xlsx) and State (Grade Crossing Inventory Form Template State v3.0.0 Rel.01-27-2021.xlsx) have been fixed to allow users to enter the correct required format (“MM/YYYY”) for items: **III.3.F. Installation Date of Current Active Warning Devices, III.3.G. Wayside Horn and IV.5. Crossing Surface (on Main Track), Installation Date.**

In addition, the Excel templates also allow users to enter “n/a” to indicate that the installation date is not required, for item **III.3.F. Installation Date of Current Active Warning Devices.** The “n/a” is shown in the backend data table as “-1”.

IMPORTANT: All users that submit Excel file uploads, should download, from the **GCIS Help tab, the newest versions of the Excel download templates.**

2. Data Validation

- a. GCIS has been fixed to now validate, the data values submitted by State agencies, for item **I.23. Type of Land Use** (error code 031). This applies to all types of GCIS submissions (Web Form, Excel file and API uploads)
- b. For item **I.33 Emergency Notification Telephone No. (posted) (POLCONT)**, the GCIS application has been changed to make this item optional; however, this field is required if **III.2.I. ENS Sign** is ‘Yes’. This GCIS validation applies to New and Existing Crossings that are Highway-rail grade crossings (i.e., public and private at-grade crossings and pathway at-grade crossings).
- c. GCIS has been fixed to properly validate Error 047, Weekly Train Counts (**II.1.E. How many trains per week?**), for the Railroad Short Form (Minor Report) when submitted by a Delegated Entity.
- d. The validation error description for III.3.F. Installation Date of Current Active Warning Device (AdwIDate) has been re-worded, as follows:

089 Field III.3.F: Enter MM/YYYY for train-activated warning devices installed or upgraded at pub hwy-rail grade crossings after Mar 7, 2015, or check “Not Required.” (web form) (N/A(Excel), "-1"(API)) if active warning devices were installed before Mar 7, 2015 & installation date is not provided. If provided, installation date must be current date or earlier.



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- e. GCIS data validation, applicable to new crossings, has been fixed to ensure the description has been specified for Crossing Surface Type is “10. Other (specify)”, has been provided (in **IV.5 Crossing Surface**); otherwise, record will be flagged with error 108.
- f. **EXCEL UPLOADS:** For **IV.7, Smallest Crossing Angle**, GCIS has been fixed to properly validate this item, for “Add New Crossing”.
- g. The validation errors, for **V.9 Regularly Use by School Buses?** have been re-worded to specify if there are no school buses that regularly use the crossing, then the Count per Day may be blank, or 0.

3. ISSUES RELATED TO THIS RELEASE, THAT MAY STILL NEED TO BE FIXED OR FURTHER ANALYZED

- a. In the web form, for add “New Crossing”, GCIS may in the future be changed to not default at the start with a Check Mark for the “Not Required” checkbox, in Item **III.3.F Installation Date of Current Active Warning Devices**.

4. DOCUMENTATION INVENTORY AND CHANGES

GCIS documentation, such as the GCIS Electronic Submission Instructions, are planned to be made available from GCIS “Help”, when revisions and updating version number (to GCIS v3.0.0) and date are completed. Revision of these documents to GCIS v3.0.0 may be shown in the file names, as “v3.0.0 Rel. 01-27-2021), or similar. Specific changes to the documentation will be shown in each document’s Revision Summary.