

Locate a Crossing Number from FRA's Website

The Problem:

Often, a crossing is identified in the field that does not have a crossing number posted and/or there apparently is no record of it in the State's or Railroad's crossing inventory file. Before assigning a new valid crossing number to the crossing, a through search should be made in the National File to see if it is identifiable.

In other situations, it is known that the crossing has been inventoried, but the crossing number is not known. In a case like this, usually crossing numbers of other adjacent crossings are known or the general series of numbers used in the area or on the railroad may be known.

In some cases, only the location of the crossing in a State and County, and maybe in a City, is known and it is desirable to find the crossing number. While the street or road name is known, it should not be used in the Query, but it will be used in identifying the crossing from a list of crossings in the area of choice. However, sometimes even the street/road name is not listed in the National File. In such cases, the crossing may be identified from the railroad's milepost numbers and/or from adjacent street/road names.

Searching the National File:

Go to FRA's Safety Data Website at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/officeofsafety/> and click on the "Crossing" Tab. There are two searches that can be used.

1. Search by Location/Railroad: Click on "*Query by Location/Railroad*," pick the *State*, then the *County* or *City* (if you are sure that the crossing is within the City limits). DO NOT pick "*Street*," it is too unreliable because of variances in spelling. You can pick the *Railroad* if you know the railroad name, and if you think that the crossing has been in the railroad's name for a long time. Note: In picking the Railroad by clicking on the down arrow, you will first obtain a drop down short list of the major railroads and those with a lot of crossings. If you don't find the railroad name you desire, back up and click on the line below the box for a list of all railroads (about 650), and then again on the down arrow. You will then find the railroad name and code that you are seeking.

Then click on *Generate Report* and a list is generated of all the crossings per your query. Search for the crossing that you are trying to find. If you find it, click on the little box on the left side and then click on *Generate Report*, and you get the inventory record for this crossing. Check the record's data to see if it matches the crossing that you are trying to identify.

If you don't find the crossing, back up and generate the query again without the selection of a *Railroad*. The crossing may be erroneously listed under the name of a different railroad because it was never properly transferred to the current railroad.

2. Search by Crossing Numbers: Click on "*Query by Crossing.*" A page appears with two boxes for choosing a crossing range. This query allows the search for a list of crossings without including the alpha check character. Also, it can be any number of digits that you decide, that is, you can chose the series from 768xxx to 769xxx and you may get all 1000 crossings from 768000 to 769000, or a fewer number depending on how many of these numbers have been assigned to crossings and the Inventory Form was sent to FRA for inclusion in the National File. Normally, your search will involve a smaller number of crossing numbers.

Assume that you suspect the number to be in the range of 456269 to 456980, or you think the number should be around 456275, where the check character is not known. Select your range to be at least 20 numbers lower and higher than the number you suspect, or the range that you think it is in. In this example where you think the number should be 456275, choose the range to be 456255 to 456295. Enter these values and click on *Generate Report*. You will get a list of those numbers which are in the National File that fall in this range. It may be a complete list, a partial list, or nothing at all, depending on the crossing records in the National File.

If you find the crossing you are seeking, click on the little box on the left side and then click on *Generate Report*, and you will get the inventory record for this crossing. Be sure to check record's data to insure that it matches the crossing that you are trying to identify. [Note: You can click on multiple boxes to obtain multiple inventory records for the crossings you select, but do not click on more than 10 boxes at one time or the system freezes.]

No Crossing Record is Found

If the crossing number is not found or identified by these two searches, then the crossing record is most probably not in the National File because neither the Railroad nor the State have sent FRA the Inventory Form for this crossing. At this point, one needs to contact the State and/or the Railroad directly to see if they have a record of the crossing.

If either the State or Railroad have an inventory record for the crossing, a copy of it needs to be sent to FRA immediately for inclusion in the National File. If they do not have an inventory record of the crossing, then it is safe to assume that the crossing was never inventoried and a valid crossing inventory number needs to be assigned by the Railroad, and a "new" crossing Inventory Form needs to be generated and sent to FRA.