



Subject: Use of ‘Canadian Melody’ Audible Pedestrian Signals	
Date: October 7, 2011	Author: Steve Drew
Bulletin Number: 2011-01 Bulletin Type: Advisory	Effective Date: October 7, 2011
Audience	Standards Affected
Ministry Managers, Electrical Services; all holders of the Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual; all Project Managers and Traffic Engineers; all Design Consultants	Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual, Electrical & Signing Materials Standards.

Background:

Audible pedestrian signals are used to indicate to the visually impaired when it is safe to enter a crosswalk. Currently, synthesized bird sounds are used to indicate the time and direction to cross, with a ‘chirp-chirp’ sound used to indicate east-west direction and a ‘cuckoo’ sound to indicate north-south direction.

Testing has indicated the ‘Canadian Melody’ is superior to the emulation of bird sounds as it does not get mistaken for the sound of actual birds and it is easier to discern in high-noise environments.

Policy:

Effective immediately, the Ministry shall use ‘Canadian Melody’ audible pedestrian signals at new signal installations and retrofit existing signals through process of attrition.

Procedure:

All crosswalks using audible pedestrian signals shall be authorized to use equipment that signals crossing time and direction with the ‘Canadian Melody’.

CONTACT:

Steve Drew, Senior Electrical Standards Technologist
Traffic, Electrical, Highway Safety and Geometric Design Section
Engineering Branch
Phone: (250) 387-7688
Email: steve.drew@gov.bc.ca