

Maine Department of Transportation

Highway Program

Design Guidance

Title: Clear Zone Relative to Right of Way

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Discipline: Highway Engineering

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Background:

The Department's criteria for Clear Zone (CZ) are outlined in Engineering Instruction C2. When a clear run out area is needed beyond a 3:1 slope to meet the CZ requirements, that distance may extend beyond the existing or proposed Right of Way (R/W).

Guidance:

Purchasing permanent R/W for CZ purposes should not be the sole reason for R/W acquisition. The following examples outline Department guidance on clear run out area or area beyond the toe of backslope falling outside of the existing or proposed R/W.

1. If the toe of the 3:1 slope or toe of backslope fall within the existing or proposed R/W and the clear run out area or area beyond the toe of backslope falls outside of the existing or proposed R/W, the 10' Clearing Limit Lines (CLLs) will clear the area required for the runout, but no additional permanent rights should be taken for CZ and no Design Exception (DE) for CZ is required.
2. If the toe of the 3:1 slope falls outside the existing or proposed R/W, then appropriate temporary or permanent rights may be taken for the embankment. The 10' CLLs will clear the area required for the runout, but no additional permanent rights should be taken for CZ and no DE for CZ is required.
3. If the toe of backslope falls outside the existing or proposed R/W then appropriate temporary or permanent rights may be taken. The 10' CLLs will clear the area beyond the toe of backslope to achieve CZ, but no additional permanent rights should be taken for CZ and no DE for CZ is required.
4. If there is a fixed hazard, other than that which would be removed by clearing, within the clear run out area or area beyond the toe of backslope for any of the three previous situations then the hazard should be removed if possible, with no permanent rights taken. If the hazard cannot be removed, guardrail should be proposed or a DE should be obtained.