



### Chart 3, Creating a New Quiet Zone or New Partial Quiet Zone Using SSMs

1. Select the crossings to be included in the New Quiet Zone.
2. A Quiet Zone may include highway-rail grade crossings on a segment of rail line crossing more than one political jurisdiction, or there may be roads within a particular area that are the responsibility of different entities (State or county roads within a town, for example). If the selected crossings are the responsibility of more than one entity, obtain the cooperation of all relevant jurisdictions.
3. A New Quiet Zone must be at least ½ mile in length along the railroad tracks.
4. A New Quiet Zone must have, at a minimum, flashing lights and gates in place at each public crossing. These must be equipped with constant warning time devices where reasonably practical, and power out indicators. Any necessary upgrades must be completed before calculating risk for the quiet zone.
5. Are there any private or pedestrian crossings within the proposed Quiet Zone? If any private crossings allow access to the public or provide access to active industrial or commercial sites, or if there are any pedestrian crossings, you must conduct a diagnostic team review of those crossings. Following the diagnostic review, you must comply with the diagnostic team's recommendations concerning those crossings.
6. Update the USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Form to reflect conditions at each public and private crossing; this update should be complete, and accurate<sup>3</sup>. For instructions on how to complete the update, see the FRA website at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/801>.
7. Submit notification of your intent to create a New or New Partial Quiet Zone in accordance with the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)
8. Using the FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator, a web-based tool that can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>, determine whether the Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) of the proposed Quiet Zone is less than or equal to the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). If the QZRI is less than or equal to the

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<sup>3</sup> For New Quiet Zones, the baseline conditions for calculating risk require that the minimum required traffic control devices are in place. This first Inventory update, therefore, must be completed after the gates, lights, and signs are in place, but before the SSMs and other measures are implemented.

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NSRT, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

- a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25, 222.27, and 222.35 for details.)
- b. Submit notification in accordance with the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

Note: Quiet Zones established by comparison to the NSRT are subject to annual FRA review. (Refer to rule section 222.51 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

9. The step described above involves qualifying a quiet zone without implementing any Supplementary Safety Measures (SSMs) or Alternative Safety Measures (ASMs). If FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator indicates that the proposed quiet zone will not qualify on that basis, install any measures that are needed. To qualify for Public Authority Designation, you must implement SSMs, build grade separations, close crossings, or install wayside horns.

Note: If you would like to implement any ASMs, their use must be approved in advance by FRA, in accordance with Appendix B of the rule. For guidance on ASM use, see *Chart 4B, Creating a Quiet Zone using Modified SSMs*, *Chart 4C, Creating a Quiet Zone using Engineering ASMs*, or *Chart 4C, Creating a Quiet Zone using Non-engineering ASMs*.

10. If every public crossing in the proposed Quiet Zone is equipped with one or more SSMs, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:

- a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25, 222.27, and 222.35 for details.)
- b. Update the National Grade Crossing Inventory to reflect current conditions at each public and private crossing within the Quiet Zone.
- c. Submit notification in accordance with the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

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Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 4.5-5 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

10. If not every public crossing is equipped with an SSM, use FRA's Quiet Zone Calculator to determine whether enough SSMs have been implemented to reduce the QZRI to the level of risk that would exist if the train horns were still sounded (RIWH), or to or below the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). The Quiet Zone Calculator can be found at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/quiet/>. If the QZRI is less than or equal to the RIWH, or less than or equal to the NSRT, you can establish the Quiet Zone through public authority designation by completing the following steps:
  - a. Install required signage at each crossing. (Refer to rule sections 222.25, 222.27, and 222.35 for details.)
  - b. Update the National Grade Crossing Inventory to reflect current conditions at each public and private crossing within the Quiet Zone.
  - c. Submit notification in accordance with the rule. (Refer to rule section 222.43 for details.)

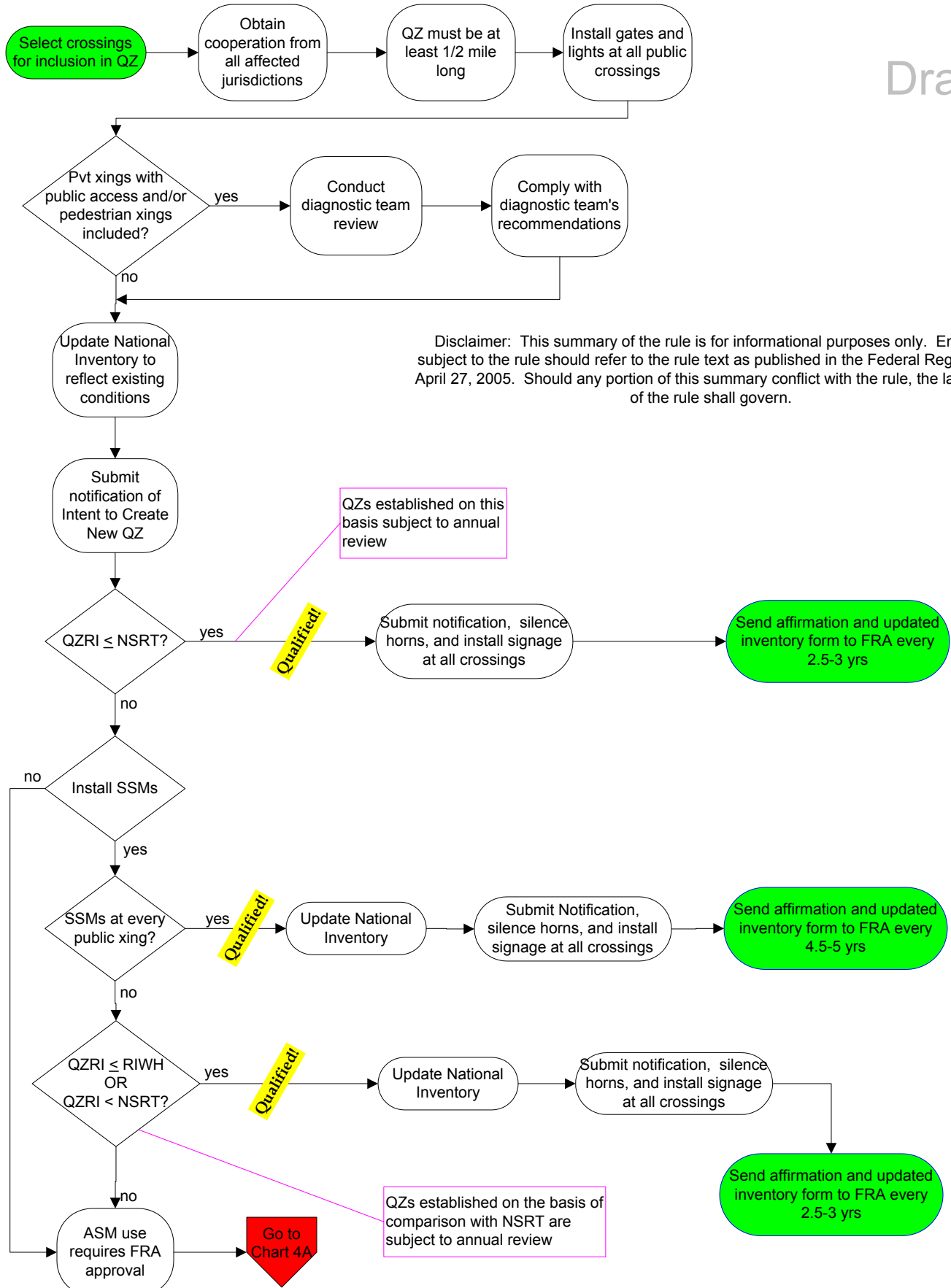
Note: Quiet Zones established by comparison to the NSRT are subject to annual FRA review. (Refer to rule section 222.51 for details.)

Note: Periodic updates, including updated USDOT Grade Crossing Inventory Forms, must be submitted to FRA every 2.5-3 years. (Refer to rule section 222.47 for details.)

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