



Diamond Grade™ Flexible Prismatic Rail Car Markings

Series 973FRA

Product Bulletin 973FRA

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Description

3M™ Diamond Grade™ Flexible Prismatic Rail Car Markings Series 973FRA are highly retroreflective flexible microprismatic markings designed to mark rail cars and locomotives for enhanced visibility and detection. The reflective marking consists of prismatic lenses that are formed in a transparent, synthetic resin, sealed and backed with a pressure sensitive adhesive and paper liner. Applied to properly prepared substrates, Diamond Grade markings should provide seven-year field performance.

<u>Product Code</u>	<u>Color</u>
973-71FRA	Yellow
973-10FRA	White

Health and Safety Information

Read all health hazard, precautionary, and first aid statements found in the Material Safety Data Sheet and/or product label of chemicals prior to handling or use.

973-71FRA yellow and 973-10FRA white markings meet or exceed:

- ASTM D4956-01A Type X
- FRA 49 CFR Part 224 requirements

Features

- High brightness
- Durable yellow and white
- Pre-sealed edges
- Non-metallic construction – no corrosion

Easy to Apply

- Aggressive pressure sensitive adhesive for application down to 35°F
- Available in 4 x 18 inch kiss cut pieces on a roll for easy application (50 yard length), 4 inch x 50 yard continuous rolls.

Coefficient of Retroreflection

The minimum coefficient of retroreflection values of these sheetings when new are given in Table A in terms of candelas per lux per square meter. Measurements are made in accordance with ASTM E-810 “Standard Test Method for Coefficient of Retroreflective Sheeting” and represent an average of values at 0 and 90 degree orientations.

Table A. Minimum Coefficient of Retroreflection (R_A) for New Sheeting (cd/lux/m²).

Entrance Angle ²	Observation Angle ¹			
	0.2°		0.5°	
	-4°	30°	-4°	30°
973-71FRA yellow	400	220	100	45
973-10FRA white	600	350	160	75

¹Observation Angle – the angle formed by the light beam striking the reflective surface and the light beam returning to the observer.

²Entrance Angle – the angle formed by a light beam striking a surface at a point and a line perpendicular to the surface at the same point.

Typical Physical Properties

The following technical information should be considered typical only and should not be used for specification purposes.

Property	Series 973FRA Typical Value
Thickness (Caliper)	0.010 inch - 0.014 inch (.25 - .36mm)
Gloss ASTM D523 @ 85°	100
Dimensional Stability ASTM D4956	No measurable change on 9 x 9 inch panel
Flexibility - wrap around 0.125 inch mandrel @ 32°F (0°C)	No cracking
High pressure wash test 45° angle, 1200 psi, 8 inch nozzle distance	Passes
Adhesion 90° Hanging Weight ASTM D4956-01_A	Passes
Minimum Application Temp.	35°F (1.7°C)
Chemical Resistance SAE J1967	Not affected by toluene, #2 diesel fuel, gasoline (leaded) kerosene, TSP detergent, xylene, dilute metal brighteners
Corrosion Resistance ASTM B-117 Salt Spray	No effect-1000 Hours
Impact Resistance Room Temperature 100 in-lb, 5/8 inch tip	No damage outside impact
Cold temperature 60 in-lbs at -20°F (-29°C)	No damage outside impact

Maintenance

Conditions

Routine washing is recommended for maximum performance. The following cleaning methods are recommended:

- Wash with sponge, cloth or soft brush using water and detergent.
- Standard high-pressure hand spray:
Maximum pressure – 1200 PSI/80 bar.
Maximum water/wash solution temperature- 140°F/60°C.
Minimum of 12 inches/30 cm distance between cleaning jets and markings.
Cleaning wand or jets to be at **no greater** angle than 45 degrees from perpendicular to the markings surface.
- When using metal brighteners, follow manufacturer's recommendations for dilution. Thoroughly rinse from marking after soaking rail car or other vehicles.

Storage

- Store in a cool, dry area out of direct sunlight.
- Temperature 65-75°F (18-24°C)
- Humidity 30-50%
- Store rolls horizontally, in carton or in original packaging.

Shelf Life

Apply Series 973FRA markings within one year of receipt of material.

General Performance Considerations

Series 973FRA markings will provide maximum durability when:

- 3M recommended procedures are followed.
- Markings are applied to vertical surfaces.

Actual durability will be based on actual customer use conditions. Durability can be reduced if recommended techniques are not followed, including:

- Improper application of surface preparation.
- Improper use of high pressure cleaning.
- Spillage of chemicals or solvents.

Warranty

3M warrants that 3M™ Diamond Grade™ Flexible Prismatic Rail Car Markings Series 973FRA sold by 3M to be used for markings in the United States and Canada will remain effective for the intended use for seven years. If the 3M reflective marking is applied in accordance with all 3M application and fabrication procedures and if the emblem or marking deteriorates due to natural causes, 3M sole responsibility and purchaser's exclusive remedy shall be that 3M will provide replacement of the 3M material.

Conditions

Such failures must be solely the result of design or manufacturing defects in the 3M reflective markings and not of outside causes such as: improper handling, maintenance or installation; use of application procedures not recommended by 3M; failure of substrate; exposure to chemicals, abrasion and other mechanical damage from fasteners used to mount the marking; collisions, vandalism or malicious mischief.

3M reserves the right to determine the method of replacement.

Replacement markings will carry the unexpired warranty of the markings they replace.

Claims made under this warranty will be honored only if 3M is notified of a failure within a reasonable time, reasonable information requested by 3M is provided, and 3M is permitted to verify the cause of the failure.

Limitation of Liability

3M's liability under this warranty is limited to replacement as stated herein, and 3M assumes no liability for any incidental or consequential damages, such as lost profits, business or revenues in any way related to the product regardless of the legal theory on which the claim is based. THIS WARRANTY IS MADE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY ARISING OUT OF A COURSE OF DEALING OR OF PERFORMANCE, CUSTOM OR USAGE OF TRADE.

Literature Reference

IF 4.19 3M™ Diamond Grade™
Flexible Prismatic Rail Car
Markings Application Instructions
Series 973RFA

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