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**National Committee on  
Uniform Traffic Control Devices**

17200 West Bell Road No.1135 \* Surprise, Ariz. 85374  
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GMI agenda item II F.5 January 19,

2012

**National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices  
GMI RECOMMENDATION**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD GMI Technical Committee**

**DATE OF ACTION: January 19, 2012**

**Reviewer: Margaret Moore**

**GMI APPROVAL DATE: January 19, 2012**

**TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS DATE: March 10, 2012**

**GMI APPROVAL FOLLOWING SPONSORS: June 20, 2012**

**COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: June 22, 2012**

**AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2N.04, P1 and P2**

**SUMMARY/TOPIC: Area Closed Sign from a Standard to Guidance**

**DISCUSSION/QUESTION:** The standard requires an Area Closed sign shall be used to close a roadway in order to prohibit traffic from the area. The standard defines where the sign shall be installed. The Area Closed section is in Section 2N, Emergency Management of the manual. In an emergency, the shall language requirements may not be obtainable. The Standard “shall” statements should be revised to “should” and the Standard made a Guidance Statement. The entire Section 2N.04, Area Closed Sign would be Guidance.

Section 2N.04 – delete “Standard” and insert “Guidance.”

Section 2N.04 (paragraph 1) – delete the “shall” and insert “should” in both sentences.

Section 2N.04 (paragraph 2) – delete the “Guidance” heading.

**RECOMMENDED: Revise 2N.04 from Standard to Guidance.**

**Note: Proposed changes to the MUTCD are shown in underline red and removed text are shown in ~~strikethrough-red~~.**

**RECOMMENDED WORDING:**

44 **Section 2N.04 AREA CLOSED Sign (EM-2)**

45 **Standard Guidance:**

46 **01 The AREA CLOSED (EM-2) sign (see Figure 2N-1) shall be used to close a**  
47 **roadway in order to prohibit traffic from entering the area. It should be installed on**  
48 **the shoulder as near as practical to the right-hand edge of the roadway, or preferably, on a**  
49 **portable mounting or barricade partly or entirely in the roadway.**

50 **Guidance**

51 *02 For best visibility, particularly at night, the sign height should not exceed 4 feet measured*  
52 *vertically from the pavement to the bottom of the sign. Unless adequate advance warning signs*  
53 *are used, it should not be placed to create a complete and unavoidable blocked route. Where*  
54 *feasible, the sign should be located at an intersection that provides a detour route.*

55

56 **January 19, 2012**

57 GMI Vote: FOR: 23 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

58

59 **June 20, 2012**

60 **GMI Vote: FOR: 17 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 0**

61

62 **Under emergency conditions, sign(s) may not be available. No revisions based on**  
63 **sponsor comment.**

64

65 **June 22, 2012**

66 Council Vote:

67 **0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions, 37 For – Motion Passed**