



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Agenda Item III. 5, June 2014

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2 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE;** Regulatory & Warning Signs

3 **DATE OF ACTION;** January 9, 2014

4 **TASK FORCE;** Randy McCourt & Jim Pline

5 **TECH COM APPROVAL DATE:** 1/09/14

6 **TECH COM APPROVAL DATE FOLLOWING CHANGES:** 3-21-14

7 **TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS:** April 2014

8 **RWSTC APPROVAL FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS:** 6-25-14

9 **COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE:** June 26, 2014

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11 **TOPIC:** Design of Signs

12 **AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD:** Section 2A.06 (Relocated to 2A.04)

13 **SUMMARY:**

14 In December 2013 we received FHWA edits to Chapter 2A along with other chapters. This proposal from
15 FHWA reorganized Chapter 2A in order to enhance the usability of the Manual both printed and
16 electronic editions. Continued development of the web and application based programs necessitates
17 organizing the document in a manner that can more easily be viewed and searches by various electronic
18 devices per FHWA.

19 Also, FHWA has included all the previously approved NCUTCD Council approved items verbatim and has
20 indicated the date and RW item # approved by Council.

21 FHWA's intention is to issue an NPA in November 2014, requested NCUTCD input by July 2014.

22 **RESEARCH:** None

23 **DISCUSSION:**

24 The FHWA has recommended some additional text in this Section to address what labels may
25 and may not be displayed on a sign. There are a few traffic control devices that are permitted to
26 display telephone numbers and internet addresses but it is the recommendation of the Technical

27 Committee that this permission in the Manual should be under the specific Sections for those
28 traffic control devices and accordingly, it does not have to be addressed here in the General
29 Signing provisions. Additionally, it is the recommendation of the Technical Committee that
30 Section 2A.04 should take the positive approach addressing the labels and information that can
31 be affixed to the face and back of a sign as indicated in the last two paragraphs of the proposal
32 below. The paragraph on pictographs has been retained since pictographs are addressed in
33 several areas of the Manual and it is preferable to include these limitations in one place (Section
34 2A.06) rather than duplicate in several other Sections of the Manual.

35 The RWSTC recommendations are shown in **Red** with the recommended FHWA text in **Blue**. It
36 is considered necessary to send this revised FHWA text to the Sponsors for their comments prior
37 to the final consideration and approval in June 2014.

38 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD PROVISIONS/REVISIONS:**

39 It is recommended that the following revised MUTCD text be transmitted to Sponsors for
40 comments and approval considering the Technical Committee recommendations. The RWSTC
41 recommendations are **shown in red**. The RWSTC recommended deletions and additions to the
42 FHWA text are **shown in red** also. The suggested FHWA text is shown in **Blue**.

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

45 **The revised FHWA edit text is shown in blue underline and removed text are shown in**
46 **~~strikethrough-blue~~.**

47 **Section ~~2A.06~~ ~~2A.05~~ 2A.04 Design of Signs**

48 Support:

49 This Manual shows many typical standard signs and object markers approved for use on streets,
50 highways, bikeways, and pedestrian crossings.

51 In the specifications for individual signs and object markers, the general appearance of the legend,
52 color, and size are shown in the accompanying tables and illustrations, and are not always detailed in the
53 text.

54 Detailed drawings of standard signs, object markers, alphabets, symbols, and arrows (see Figure 2D-
55 2) are shown in the “Standard Highway Signs ~~and Markings~~” book publication. Section 1A.11 contains
56 information regarding how to obtain this publication.

57 The basic requirements of a sign are that it be legible to those for whom it is intended and that it be
58 understandable in time to permit a proper response. Desirable attributes include:

- 59 A. High visibility by day and night; and
- 60 B. High legibility (adequately sized letters, symbols, or arrows, and a short legend for quick
61 comprehension by a road user approaching a sign).

62 Standardized colors and shapes are specified so that the several classes of traffic signs can be
63 promptly recognized. Simplicity and uniformity in design, position, and application are **important**
64 **essential for a sign to be effective**.

65 **Standard:**

66 **The term legend shall include all word messages and symbol and arrow designs that are**
67 **intended to convey specific meanings.**

68 Uniformity in design shall include shape, color, dimensions, legends, borders, and illumination
69 or retroreflectivity.

70 Standardization of these designs does not preclude further improvement by minor **changes in**
71 **modifications to the proportion or** orientation of symbols, width of borders, or layout of word
72 messages, but all shapes and colors shall be as indicated.

73 All symbols shall be unmistakably similar to, or mirror images of, the adopted symbol signs, all
74 of which are shown in the “Standard Highway Signs” **and Markings” book publication** (see Section
75 1A.11). Symbols and colors shall not be modified unless otherwise provided in this Manual. All
76 symbols, **and** colors, **or other design features** for signs not shown in the “Standard Highway Signs”
77 **and Markings” book publication** shall follow the procedures for experimentation and change
78 described in Section 1A.10.

79 Option:

80 Although the standard design of symbol signs cannot be modified, the orientation of the symbol may
81 be changed to better reflect the direction of travel, if appropriate.

82 **Standard:**

83 Where a standard word message is applicable, the wording shall be as provided in this Manual.

84 In situations where word messages are required other than those provided in this Manual, the
85 signs shall be of the same shape and color as standard signs of the same functional type.

86 Option:

87 State and local highway agencies may develop special word **message legend** signs in situations where
88 roadway conditions make it necessary to provide road users with additional regulatory, warning, or
89 guidance information, such as when road users need to be notified of special regulations or warned about
90 a situation that might not be readily apparent. Unlike colors that not been assigned or symbols that have
91 not been approved for signs, new word **message legend** signs may be used without the need for
92 experimentation.

93 **Support:**

94 Certain special word legend signs might be unclear to the road user. Although experimentation is not
95 required for such word legends, they might still require an evaluation to determine comprehension or
96 possible misinterpretation by the road user.

97 **Standard: RWSTC recommends the following two Standards be deleted and reworded.**

98 ~~Except as provided in Paragraph 16 and except for the Carpool Information (D12-2) sign (see~~
99 ~~Section 2I.11), Internet addresses and e-mail addresses, including domain names and uniform~~
100 ~~resource locators (URL), shall not be displayed on any sign, supplemental plaque, sign panel~~
101 ~~(including logo sign panels on Specific Service signs), or changeable message sign.~~

102 ~~Unless otherwise provided in this Manual for a specific sign, and except as provided in~~
103 ~~Paragraph 16, telephone numbers of more than four characters shall not be displayed on any sign,~~
104 ~~supplemental plaque, sign panel (including logo sign panels on Specific Service signs), or~~
105 ~~changeable message sign.~~

106 ~~Unless otherwise provided in this Manual for a specific sign; telephone numbers, internet~~
107 ~~addresses, email addresses, domain names, uniform resource locators (URL), quick response (QR)~~
108 ~~codes, bar codes or other graphics for optical scanning for purpose of obtaining information shall~~
109 ~~not be displayed on signs, supplemental plaques, sign panels or changeable message signs.~~

110 *Guidance:*

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112 *Unless otherwise provided in this Manual for a specific sign, and except as provided in Paragraph*
113 *16, telephone numbers of more than four characters should not be displayed on any sign, supplemental*
114 *plaque, sign panel (including logo sign panels on Specific Service signs), or changeable message sign.*

115 Incorporated into Standard above since the allowable modifications are provided in the Option
116 below

118 Option:

119 Internet addresses, e-mail addresses, or telephone numbers, quick response (QR) codes, bar codes or
120 other graphics for the purpose of obtaining information (other than those for maintenance or inventory
121 purposes, see Paragraphs XX and XX of this Section) may be displayed on the face of signs,
122 supplemental plaques, sign panels, and changeable message signs that are intended for viewing only by
123 pedestrians, bicyclists, occupants of parked vehicles, and not visible to motor vehicle drivers

124 **Standard:**

125 Pictographs (see definition in Section 1A.13) shall not be displayed on signs except as
126 specifically provided in this Manual. Pictographs shall be simple, dignified, ~~and~~ devoid of any
127 advertising and not contain any quick response (QR) codes, bar codes or other graphics designed
128 for optical scanning for the purpose of obtaining information. When used to represent a political
129 jurisdiction (such as a State, county, or municipal corporation) the pictograph shall be the official
130 designation adopted by the jurisdiction. When used to represent a college or university, the
131 pictograph shall be the official seal adopted by the institution. Pictorial representations of
132 university or college programs shall not be permitted to be displayed on a sign.

133
134 RWSTC endorses the pictograph design details indicated above because this is the only Section it is
135 addressed, although pictographs are cited numerous times elsewhere in the Manual

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137 ~~Quick response (QR) codes, bar codes, or other graphics intended for optical scanning for the~~
138 ~~purpose of obtaining information (other than those for maintenance or inventory purposes, see~~
139 ~~Paragraphs XX and XX of this Section) shall not be displayed on signs, supplemental plaques, sign~~
140 ~~panels, and changeable message signs except those that are visible only to pedestrians or occupants~~
141 ~~of vehicles that are parked out of the flow of traffic. Pictographs or logos whose design include QR~~
142 ~~codes, bar codes, or other graphics intended for optical scanning shall not be allowed.~~

143 RWSTC recommends that the above paragraph on QR & bar Codes be deleted since it is
144 covered in the Option statement above.

145 ~~No items other than inventory stickers, sign installation dates, sign sizes, sign designations, and~~
146 ~~inventory or maintenance bar codes shall be affixed to the front of a sign unless otherwise provided~~
147 ~~in this Manual for a specific sign. and the placement of these items shall be completely within the~~
148 ~~border of the sign.~~

149 No items other than official traffic control signs, inventory stickers, sign installation dates, sign
150 sizes, sign designations, anti-vandalism stickers, and inventory or maintenance bar codes shall be
151 mounted on the back of a sign, unless otherwise provided in this Manual for a specific sign.

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154 **TECH COMMITTEE VOTE 3-21-14: For: 20 Against:1 Abstentions: 0**

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156 **TECH COMMITTEE VOTE: 6-25-14 For: 25 Against: 1 Abstentions: 0**

157 **COUNCIL VOTE: 6-26-14 For: Unanimous Against Abstentions**

Attachment No. 10

RW Signs No. 5

158 **C:NCUTCD/June2014 meeting/RW # 5 Section 2A.06 (new 2A.04) design of signs revised**
159 **2-26-14, updated 6/02/14, approved by RWSTC following sponsor comments revised 6-25-**
160 **14,approved by COUNCIL 6-26-14**

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