



# National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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**ATTACHMENT NO. 4**

**RW Item No. 2**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee**

**TOPIC: Warning Signs, NEW Panel with Starburst (SSW-5b)**

**STATUS/DATE OF ACTION:**

**TC Drafts: 11/22/2008 Revised 1-7-09 by RWSTC**

**RWSTC Approval: 1/07/2009**

**RWSTC Approval following sponsor comments: 6/18/09**

**Transmitted to Sponsors: 3/02/2009**

**Council Approval: 6/20/2009**

**ORIGIN OF REQUEST: RWSTC**

**AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Figure 2C-14**

**SUMMARY:**

The NCUTCD Council approved changes to Section 2A.15 *Enhanced Conspicuity for Signs*, Section 2C.67 *NEW Plaque (W16-15P)* and Figure in January and June 2008. The panel shown in Figure 2C-14 shows the legend surround by a "starburst" for emphasis. While Section 2A.15 includes a number of forms of emphasis, it does not include the use of the "starburst". For consistency, eliminate the "starburst" from Figure 2C-14 and retain the NEW plaque without the "starburst".

**DISCUSSION**

The "starburst" form of emphasis is used in Canada. It is not in common use in the United States. The RWSTC is unaware of any research having been done on the effectiveness of the "starburst". Members of the RWSTC that have seen it in use in Canada and do not believe that adds effective emphasis.



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**Note: Proposed changes to the MUTCD are shown in underline red.**  
**RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO THE PROPOSED 2009 MUTCD PROVISIONS/  
REVISIONS**

Figure 2C-14 (NPA) - Eliminate the “starburst” from the NEW plaque

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*The approved versions of Section 2A Enhanced Conspicuity for Signs, Section 2C.67 NEW Plaque (W16-15P) are included for reference below: (THIS IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY)*

Section 2A.15 Enhanced Conspicuity for Standard Signs

Approved by Council 1/12/08 with Revisions shown in blue highlight, Additional Revisions in Yellow highlight approved by Council 6-21-08

Option:

Based upon engineering judgment, where the improvement of the conspicuity of a standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign is desired, any of the following methods may be used, as appropriate, to enhance the sign’s conspicuity (see Figure 2A-1):

- A. Increasing the size of a standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign.
- B. Doubling-up of a standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign by adding a second identical sign on the left-hand side of the roadway.
- C. Adding a solid yellow or fluorescent yellow rectangular “header panel” above a standard regulatory sign, with the width of the panel corresponding to the width of the standard regulatory sign. A legend of “NOTICE,” “STATE LAW,” or other appropriate text may be added in black letters within the header panel.

**REASON:** **The words NOTICE and STATE LAW are unnecessary , add nothing to the sign legend, and do not appear to increase road user compliance. With a Blank Yellow panel, jurisdictions may add their own wording but it is not necessary to suggest wording.**

- D. Adding a NEW plaque (see Section 2C.67) above a new standard regulatory or warning sign, for a period of time determined by engineering judgment, to call attention to the new sign.
- E. Adding one or more red or orange flags (cloth or retroreflective sheeting) above a standard regulatory or warning sign, with the flags oriented so as to be at 45 degrees to the vertical.

**REASON: Orange flags added because they are used by a number States.**

- F. Adding a solid red or fluorescent red strip of retroreflective sheeting at least 75 mm (3 in) wide around the perimeter of a standard regulatory sign. This may be accomplished by affixing the standard regulatory sign on a red retroreflective background panel having a width and height that is 150 mm (6 in) larger than the size of the standard regulatory sign.
- G. Adding a solid yellow, a solid fluorescent yellow, or a diagonally striped black and yellow (or black and fluorescent yellow) strip of retroreflective sheeting at least 75 mm (3 in) wide around the perimeter of a standard warning sign. This may be accomplished by affixing the standard warning sign on a background panel that is 150 mm (6 in) larger than the size of the standard warning sign.
- H. Adding a warning beacon (see Section 4L.03) to a standard regulatory (other than a STOP or a Speed Limit sign), warning, or guide sign.
- I. Adding a speed limit sign beacon (see Section 4L.04) to a standard Speed Limit sign.
- J. Adding a stop beacon (see Section 4L.05) to a STOP sign.
- K. Adding light emitting diode (LED) units within the symbol or legend of a sign or border of a standard regulatory, warning, or guide sign, as described in Section 2A.07.
- L. Using other methods that are specifically allowed for certain signs as described elsewhere in this Manual.

**ACTION BY COUNCIL: RETAIN ITEMS A, B, C, and E and DEPICTIONS A and B in the associated Figure. Eliminate other items.**

**Standard:**

Strobe lights shall not be used to enhance the conspicuity of highway signs.

**Section 2C.67 NEW Plaque (W16-15P)**

**Approved by Council 6-21-08 with revisions shown in yellow highlight.**

**Option:**

A NEW (W16-15P) plaque (see Figure 2C-14 ) may be mounted above a regulatory sign when a new regulation takes effect in order to alert road users to the new traffic regulation. A NEW plaque may also be mounted above an advance warning sign (such as a Signal Ahead sign for a newly-installed traffic control signal) for a new traffic regulation.

**Guidance:**

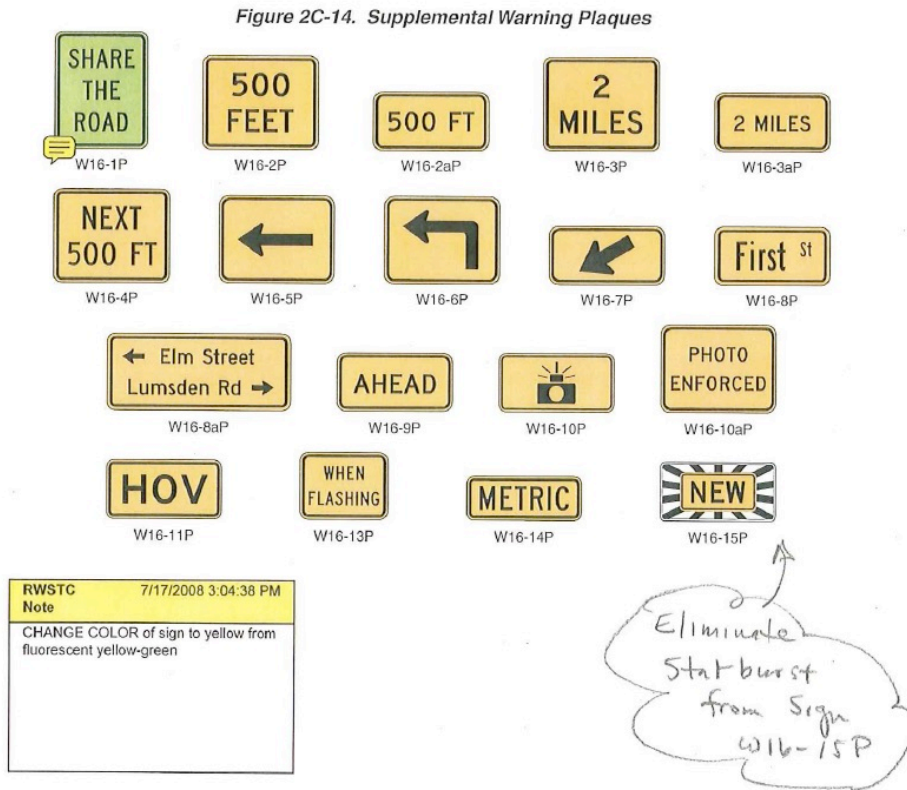
The NEW plaque should be removed no later than 6 months after the regulation has been in effect.

**Standard:**

**The NEW plaque shall not be used alone.**

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Reason: A plaque is not used alone



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**RWSTC APPROVAL 6-18-09**

VOTE: For: **Unanimous**  
Opposed:  
Abstentions:

138 Council Approval : 6-20-09  
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140 u: Starburst – new plaque 6-20-09  
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