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National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices RWSTC RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: NCUTCD Regulatory/Warning Signs Technical Committee

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DATE OF ACTION: (TASK FORCE): March 3, 2011, Revised January 18, 2012 following sponsor comments

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TASK FORCE: Dan Paddick (chair), Tom Heydel, Ron Lipps, Jim Pline, Andy Ramisch, Roger Wentz, Mark Bott, Scott Kuznicki, Fred Ranck

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RWSTC APPROVAL DATE: 6-22-11

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TRANSMITTAL TO SPONSORS DATE: Fall 2011

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RWSTC APPROVAL DATE FOLLOWING SPONSOR COMMENTS: 1-18-12

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COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE: 1-19-12

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TOPIC: Section 2C.62 NEW Plaque (W16-15p)

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AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2C.62

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BACKGROUND:

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Section 1A.13 of the 2009 MUTCD revised the definition of a “Standard” by adding a sentence that stated “Standard statements shall not be modified or compromised based on engineering judgment or engineering study.”

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Because of the strong opposition to this change in the definition, FHWA MUTCD Team Leader Hari Kalla and NCUTCD Chairperson Lee Billingsley, requested that each of the Technical Committees review all of the Standard statements in their sections to see if modifications are necessary in light of the revised definition.

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DISCUSSION:

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In its review of Section 2C, the Regulatory and Warning Sign Technical Committee (RWSTC) identified two Standard statements that may need modification. One of these

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41 was paragraph 03 in Section 2C.62 which required that the NEW plaque be removed no
42 later than six months after the regulation was put into effect.

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44 There is no question that this plaque should generally be removed within six months
45 of its placement. The question is whether this should be a requirement or a
46 recommendation. Is engineering judgment ever needed to make this decision? One
47 instance where engineering judgment might be necessary is near summer or winter resort
48 areas when the regulation is put into place at the end of the season and the six months
49 would be over before most of the out of town users have encountered the situation.

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51 The RWSTC recognizes this sign will lose its system-wide effectiveness if it is
52 routinely allowed to remain in place at specific locations for too long. But it is doubtful
53 that the occasional misuse of this plaque will ever cause an accident at the location at
54 which it is being used. That being the case, does the removal of the sign warrant it being
55 a Standard? Is its misuse so egregious of an offense that agencies deserve to lose a
56 lawsuit at a location when a random accident does occur. The RWSTC does not feel that
57 this is the case and that the Standard should be changed to a Guidance statement

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59 **RECOMMENDATION: Amend Section 2C.62 to delete paragraph 03 and replace
60 it with a Guidance statement.**

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

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65 **Changes following sponsor comments are shown in yellow highlight.**

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67 **RECOMMENDED WORDING:**

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69 **Section 2C.62 NEW Plaque (W16-15P)**

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71 Option:
72 01 A NEW (W16-15P) plaque (see Figure 2C-12) may be mounted above a regulatory
73 sign when a new regulation takes effect in order to alert road users to the new traffic
74 regulation. A NEW plaque may also be mounted above an advance warning sign (such as
75 a Signal Ahead sign for a newly-installed traffic control signal) for a new traffic
76 regulation.

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77 **Standard:**
78 02 The NEW plaque shall not be used alone.

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79 ~~03 The NEW plaque shall be removed no later than 6 months after the regulation~~

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80 ~~has been in effect.~~
81 Guidance
82 ~~04 The NEW plaque should be removed no later than 6 months after the regulation has~~

82

83 ~~been in effect.~~
84 03 The NEW plaque should be removed no later than 6 months after it was installed.

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87 RWSTC VOTE 1-18-12 following sponsor comments:

88 For: Unanimous

89 Opposed:

90 Abstentions:

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92 COUNCIL VOTE:

93 For: 36

94 Opposed: 1

95 Abstentions: 0

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98 C: NCUTCD/January 2012/Section2C62NEWplaquechangeStandardtoGuidanceMarch3,

99 2011, updated 6-22-11, revised 1-18-12, approved by council 1-19-12