

ARTICLE 19 SIGNS

The following sign regulations shall be observed in all districts: It is not the purpose of this section to abridge commercial or non-commercial free speech. The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that the time, place, and manner of sign emplacement within the City is conducted with regard to the safety of motorists and pedestrians (especially in avoiding distractions or confusion in high traffic areas), access to light and air by neighboring properties, and avoidance of negative impact upon neighboring properties, including unnecessary glare.

SECTION 1900 EXEMPT SIGNS

- A. The following types of signs are permitted in all zoning districts, and exempt from permitting requirements, but not from performance standards relative to traffic safety, or overall sign limitations of any specific sign type or district.
- B. Temporary signs announcing a campaign, drive or event of a civic, philanthropic, educational, or religious organization, provided such sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area and shall be emplaced no more than thirty (30) days before the event and removed immediately upon the completion of the campaign, drive or event
- C. Temporary signs erected in connection with the development or proposed development of the premises or property provided that the area of any such sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet. Not more than one (1) such sign shall be placed on property held in single and separate ownership unless the property fronts on more than one (1) street, in which case one (1) such sign shall be permitted on each separate street frontage. Such signs shall be removed within ten (10) days after the development has been completed and/or the last structure occupied. No such sign may be erected until all zoning, subdivision and land development approvals have been obtained.
- D. Political signs announcing candidates seeking public office, a referendum, or similar political speech are permitted as subject to Ordinance Number 1707 of the City.
- E. Religious or holiday displays or messages with no commercial content.
- F. The flag of the United States, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or any state or nation.
- G. Signs offering the sale or rental of the premises upon which the sign is erected, provided that the area of any such sign shall not exceed ten (10) square feet and not more than one (1) such sign shall be placed on the property unless such property fronts on more than one (1) street, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each street frontage.
- H. Auctions, garage, or yard sale signs provided that they do not exceed One square (1) foot and are removed as soon as the event or activity has occurred.
- I. Directory signs which list all the occupants of a multi-tenant or multiple-family building, or buildings in a multi-building development; provided, that the area of such signs does not exceed one-half square foot per tenant or two square feet per individual building.
- J. Temporary signs of contractors, developers, architects, engineers, builders and artisans, erected and maintained on the premises where the work is being performed, provided that the area of such sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in any Residential District, and thirty two (32) square feet in all other districts; provided that such sign shall be removed within seven days completion of the work.
- K. Any signs not visible from outside a lot or building.
- L. Displays of time and temperature with no other content, including electronic displays.

- M. Rest room, exit, public telephone, handicapped parking or access, and similar directional or informational signs emplaced for the benefit of the public or building tenants.
- N. No trespassing signs, signs indicating the private nature of a road, driveway or premises, signs controlling fishing on the premises, provided that the area of such sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet.
- O. House and address numbers, home occupation or nameplate sign displaying the name and address of the occupant or the profession or activity of the occupant of a dwelling unit, provided that not more than one (1) such sign shall be erected for each permitted use, and provided that the area of each such sign shall not exceed four (4) square feet and may not be illuminated.
- P. Memorial signs or tablets denoting the date of erection of a building.
- Q. Temporary signs announcing the birth of a child, birthday commemoration, marriage, graduation, or similar event in the life of a householder shall be permitted provided such signs do not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
- R. Any sign warning of a hazard that contains no other information or commercial content.
- S. Signs erected by the City or an authorized entity that serve to provide directions and explanations for public recreational purposes and facilities, City events and meetings, for dedication/memorial purposes, and to mark and explain historical events, persons or structures. Such signs shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet in area. Such signs may include the name or logos of businesses or individuals who have sponsored a public improvement or general support of said facility.
- T. Traffic signs and similar regulatory notices placed by a duly constituted governmental body.
- U. Signs erected for the purpose of scoring an athletic event taking place upon the site, which may include electronic scoring devices and names and or logos of sponsors of the sign, provided there is no illumination of the sign at times when the activity is not taking place.

SECTION 1901 SIGN PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Except where specifically noted, all signs shall adhere to all performance standards.

- A. Unless specifically exempted by Section 500 of this Ordinance, a permit must be obtained from the City for the erection or alteration of all signs. Exemptions from the necessity of securing a permit, however, shall not be construed to relieve the owner of the sign involved from responsibility for its erection and maintenance in a safe manner and in a manner in accord with all the other provisions of this Ordinance and other codes.
- B. No signs shall be permitted within public rights-of-way, except PennDOT-approved traffic signs and devices; signs and banners specially approved by the City for decoration or promotion of community events and activities; signs not exceeding nine square feet placed temporarily to advertise the sale of real estate or a yard sale; political signs not exceeding nine square feet placed temporarily; signs not exceeding nine (9) square feet placed temporarily to provide notice of or direction to a civic, philanthropic, political, educational, or religious event or activity, or other signs specifically permitted under section 503.7 of this Ordinance (projecting business signs). The City may require proof of insurance for any sign within a City right-of-way.
- C. No person shall construct, erect, place, use or permit the use of any permanent or temporary sign or sign structure on private or public property except for the property owner or tenant, or a person with the express written consent of the property owner.
- D. Construction and maintenance: All signs shall be constructed in a workmanlike fashion using durable materials. Signs shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind forces and in accordance with

appropriate mechanical or electrical standards. The owners of signs shall keep them in safe and good repair. Signs which become deteriorated or otherwise present a public hazard shall be removed or repaired by the sign's owner. If the owner of a sign cannot be found or identified, the owner of the property whereon the sign is located shall be responsible for its repair or removal.

- E. No sign structure may block a vehicular line of sight for a driveway, access lane, or public street, or be placed at any location where by its position, shape, or color it may interfere with or obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device. Sign structures erected directly upon the ground within fifteen (15) feet of any vehicular driveway, or street intersection shall have at least three (3) feet six (6) inches of clear space between such sign and the ground; however, necessary supports may extend through such open space.
- F. No signs shall be permitted which are posted, stapled or otherwise attached to public utility poles, trees, fire hydrants, traffic signposts, light posts, or any City owned structure.
- G. Nonconforming signs, once removed, shall be replaced only with conforming signs. Nonconforming signs may be repainted or repaired, providing such repainting or repairing does not exceed the dimensions of the existing sign.

SECTION 1902 SIGN ILLUMINATION

- A. Except as specifically provided for electronic signs by Special Exception, no sign shall employ intermittent light, electronic or movable text, strobes or other animations that may serve to distract motorists, or abutting homeowners.
- B. Lighting for signs shall not create a hazardous glare for pedestrians or vehicles either in a public street or on any private premises.
- C. Except as specifically provided for electronic signs by Special Exception, or the use of diffused neon, the light source, whether internal to the sign or external, shall be shielded from view.
- D. Sign illumination for externally illuminated signs shall utilize focused light fixtures that do not allow light or glare to shine above the horizontal plane of the top of the sign or onto any public right-of-way or adjoining property.
- E. All electrical connections shall be shielded by underground or overhead electrical wires which meet all relevant codes. No temporary signs shall be illuminated by direct means.

SECTION 1903 SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION

All applications for signs, as required under this section, shall be submitted to the Zoning Officer. The application shall contain:

- A. Type, area and number of signs proposed
- B. Type of illumination proposed (if permitted), including the luminance proposed and direction of lighting. This shall also be depicted upon a map that illustrates the distance to any R-1, R-2 or R-3 zoning districts.
- C. For freestanding signs, a sketch showing the placement of the sign in relation to all driveways, vehicular rights of way, property lines and cartways. The developer shall submit current sight distances, before and after erection of the sign with sufficient information to show that sight distances shall not be reduced.
- D. A photograph or graphic rendition of the proposed sign copy, including all symbols, letter, and graphic elements shown to scale and all structural elements intended to anchor the sign.

- E. The City must specifically approve signs within public rights of way. In the case of temporary signs, the Zoning Officer or his designee shall review the application and grant approval if all applicable standards of this Ordinance are met. In the case of permanent signs, the Zoning Officer shall refer the application to City Council, who may refer the application for advice to the Planning Commission or any similar advisory committee.
- F. The information required by this section may be integrated into the City's land development plan application and approval process where applicable.

SECTION 1904 SIGNS PERMITTED IN THE R-1A, R-1B RESIDENTIAL, R-2 RESIDENTIAL, AND CON DISTRICTS

- A. Subdivision identification signs, and/or signs identifying apartment or condominium complexes, provided that the area of any such sign shall not exceed sixty-four (64) square feet, and further provided that one (1) such sign shall be permitted for each separate street and/or separate building frontage occupied by the subdivision, apartment, or condominium complex and/or for each means of entrance to or exit from the subdivision, apartment, or condominium complex. Such signs may not be illuminated.
- B. Signs for permitted non-residential or permitted institutional uses provided that the area of any such sign shall not exceed forty-eight (48) square feet, and further provided that one (1) such sign shall be permitted for each separate street and/or separate building frontage occupied by the permitted use, and for each means of entrance to or exit from the permitted use. Such signs may not be illuminated.
- C. Institutional uses may have one (1) changeable copy sign of no greater than thirty two (32) square feet, either freestanding or permanently attached to a building. Illumination of any such non-electronic changeable copy sign shall be from external sources only, and shielded to prevent unnecessary glare to neighboring properties. Luminance shall not exceed ten (10) luxes (1 foot-candle) measured at a distance of ten (10) feet from the sign.
- D. No freestanding signs within these districts may be erected within ten (10) feet of a side or rear lot line.
- E. No freestanding signs within these districts may exceed six (6) feet in height.

SECTION 1905 SIGNS PERMITTED IN THE PEI PUBLIC DISTRICT

- A. All signs permitted in the R-1A, R-1B, R-2 and CON Districts.
- B. Signs for permitted non-residential or permitted institutional uses provided that the area of any such sign shall not exceed sixty four (64) square feet, and further provided that one (1) such sign shall be permitted for each separate street and/or separate building frontage occupied by the permitted use, and for each means of entrance to or exit from the permitted use. Such signs may be illuminated by direct or indirect means. Illumination of the sign face shall not exceed ten (10) luxes (1 foot-candle) measured at a distance of ten (10) feet from the sign.
- C. In multi-building institutional developments, each building may include one (1) freestanding or wall sign of up to thirty two (32) square feet. Such signs may be illuminated by direct or indirect means.
- D. No freestanding signs within this district may be erected within ten (10) feet of a side or rear lot line, or ten (10) feet from a public right of way. All freestanding signs shall be set back from a property line or right of way by the height of the sign.
- E. Institutional Uses in the PEI District may have one (1) Electronic sign of no greater than sixteen (16) square feet per each road frontage, either permanently attached to a building or as a freestanding monument sign. Illumination of any such electronic signs shall not exceed ten (10) luxes (1 foot-candle) measured at a distance of ten (10) feet from the sign. Signs shall not be illuminated before dawn or after 10 PM except for emergency or public safety use, such as school closing information or Amber Alerts.

F. No freestanding signs within this district may exceed eight (8) feet in height.

SECTION 1906 SIGNS PERMITTED IN THE TRAN, C-1, C-2, CLI AND I ZONING DISTRICTS

- A. All signs permitted in the R-1A, R-1B, R-2 and CON Districts. and PEI Districts.
- B. Unless limited by special exception or Traditional Neighborhood Development design standards, the number of signs permitted shall be consistent with the following table:
 - 1. TRAN,C-1,C-2: two (2) permanent signs per street frontage.
 - 2. HCL, I: three (3) permanent signs per street frontage and one (1) additional sign per each street frontage of more than one hundred (100) feet in width.
- C. Buildings or properties with multiple businesses may have one (1) additional sign per each additional business located within the building or property. However, all signs must remain within any dimensional limits of Table 1606.1.
- D. The dimensions of signs shall be consistent with the following table. No freestanding signs within this district may be erected within ten (10) feet of a side or rear lot line, or ten (10) feet from a public right of way. All freestanding signs shall be set back from a property line or right of way by the height of the sign. Projecting Signs, where permitted, may not project into any required building setback.

TABLE 1906.1 BUSINESS SIGN REGULATIONS

DISTRICT SIGN TYPE	TRAN TRANSITIONAL	C-1/C-2 COMMERCIAL	HCL COMMERCIAL LIGHT INDUSTRIAL	I INDUSTRIAL
FREESTANDING POLE SIGNS	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	16 square feet only one (1) freestanding pole sign per property	16 square feet only one (1) freestanding pole sign per property
FREESTANDING MONUMENT SIGNS	Maximum Area: 32 Square Feet Maximum Height: 8 feet	Maximum Area: 32 Square Feet Maximum Height: 10 feet	Maximum Area: 40 Square Feet Maximum Height: 10 feet	Maximum Area: 40 Square Feet Maximum Height: 10 feet
PROJECTING SIGNS	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Maximum Size: 16 square feet Maximum Height: The lowest part of the sign shall be no more than 15 feet above grade	Maximum Size: 16 square feet Maximum Height: The lowest part of the sign shall be no more than 15 feet above grade
FAÇADE WALL SIGNS	Maximum Size: 10 percent of one surface per street front	Maximum Size: 15 percent of one surface per street front	Maximum Size: 20 percent of one surface per street front	Maximum Size: 20 percent of one surface per street front
ROOF SIGNS	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Maximum Area: 100 Square Feet Maximum Height: 10 feet above building

*sf means square feet

1906.2 Signs may be illuminated by direct or indirect means. Illumination of the sign face shall not exceed one hundred (100) luxes (10 foot candles) measured at a distance of ten (10) feet from the sign, unless any portion of the illuminated sign face is within one hundred (100) feet of an R-1, R-2, or R-3 Residential District and visible from an occupied dwelling in said district. In such cases, illumination shall be reduced to ten (10) luxes (1 foot candle) measured at a distance of ten (10) feet from the sign.

1906.3 Temporary Signs: Temporary signs shall be permitted in building windows, and shall not require a permit.

A. In The C-1 District, temporary sandwich board signs of up to four (4) square feet in area are permitted on sidewalks during the hours the business is open.

B. Permanent Window Signs, Banners and Temporary Business Signs:

1. Permanent window signs are permitted in the C-1, C-2, and HCLI Districts by right without a permit provided no more than fifty percent (50%) of each window surface and twenty-five percent (25%) of all building windows include such signs. Such

permanent window signs do not count towards the allowed number of signs per district.

2. Temporary business signs, such as vinyl banner signs or manual changeable copy signs, are also permitted as accessory to all business uses, and do not require a permit. However, such signs remain subject to all setback requirements for business signs, and may not exceed 32 square feet in size. No temporary banner sign or changeable copy sign may be lighted except by indirect means. No temporary banner sign or changeable copy sign shall remain in place for more than 30 continuous days or 120 total days per calendar year.

1906.4 Canopy Signs

A Canopy signs may project into rights of way in areas served by sidewalks only in the C-1 and C-2 Zoning Districts, and shall be subject to the following regulations:

1. No portion of an awning or canopy shall be less than eight (8) feet above the level of the public sidewalk.
2. The awning or canopy shall be set back at least four (4) feet from the curb or a public street.
3. Awnings and canopies shall be constructed of canvas, vinyl or similar flexible, cloth-like material. Backlit or metal awnings or canopies are prohibited for signs within rights-of-way.
4. Awnings and canopies shall be securely attached to the building. All frames and supports shall be made of metal or other rigid material.
5. The name of the business or logo may be printed on the portion of the awning or canopy above the valance provided that such name or logo does not comprise more than twenty five (25%) percent of the total canopy area.

SECTION 1907 ELECTRONIC SIGNS

The inherent characteristic of electronic signs is their flexibility. This creates the potential for such signs to create an undue distraction to motorists if poorly placed or poorly programmed. These regulations are designed to encourage evolving methods of advertising, while preventing light pollution, and driver distraction hazards.

- A. A single LED window sign of up to two (2) square feet in size is permitted in the C-1, C-2 and CLI Commercial Districts for any business use. LED window signs shall not be included as part of calculations of total signage permitted.
- B. An electronic sign is permitted in the Commercial Light Industrial District as an accessory portion of a freestanding monument sign, provided that the LED sign is no greater than twelve (12) feet in surface area, and mounted on the same frame as a static freestanding sign. The area of the LED shall be included in total sign area calculations.
- C. Pole Signs with video or multicolored LED displays are permitted only as a Conditional Use in the CLI Commercial Light Industrial and I-1 industrial Districts.
 1. Setback from other electronic changeable copy, electronic graphic display or video display signs: Electronic signs must be separated from other electronic signs by at least 600 feet. No more than one electronic sign is permitted per each road frontage, regardless of how many tenants occupy that lot.
 2. Orientation. When located within 150 feet of an occupied residential dwelling or the R-1A, R-1B, or R-2 Residential District, all parts of the electronic changeable copy sign must be oriented so that no portion of the sign face is visible from an existing or permitted principal structure on that lot;

D. Performance Standards for all Electronic Signs (Except Window Signs under Section 1907A)

1. Electronic signs may contain permanent content about any business located on the premises upon which the sign is placed. They may also contain temporary messages with content about such businesses, or temporary messages announcing a campaign, drive or event of a civic, philanthropic, educational or religious organization, provided that such message is changed upon the cessation of such a campaign, drive or event.
2. Message display shall remain static for a minimum of five (5) seconds. There shall be no strobe, flashing effect or other animation during the display. Any transitions or change of the display between messages shall not be more than one (1) second. Transitions that involve fading, scrolling, or other animations shall not be permitted.
3. Illumination: The owner of the sign or his agent shall measure sign luminance with a luminance meter set to measure foot-candles accurate to at least two decimals. Luminance shall be measured with the sign off, and again with the sign displaying a white image for a full color-capable sign, or a solid message for a single-color sign. All measurements shall be taken perpendicular to the face of the sign at the distance determined by the total square footage of the sign. Electronic signs of ten square feet or less shall be measured at a distance of thirty two (32) feet. Electronic Signs of greater than ten (10) square feet shall be measured at a distance of 39 feet The difference between the off and solid-message measurements using the criteria shall not exceed 0.3 footcandles at night. A letter certifying compliance shall be provided to the zoning officer.
4. Dimming Capabilities All permitted electronic signs shall be equipped with a sensor or other device that automatically determines the ambient illumination and programmed to automatically dim according to ambient light conditions, or that can be adjusted to comply with the 0.3 foot-candle measurement.
5. Electronic signs which malfunction shall be turned off except for testing during any correction or repair.
6. Audio or pyrotechnics. Audio speakers or any form of pyrotechnics are prohibited in association with an electronic sign.

SECTION 1908 BILLBOARDS:

Billboards as defined by this ordinance, including electronic billboards are permitted in the I Industrial Zoning District.

No billboard shall exceed six hundred (600) square feet in size.

No billboard shall be located within thirty five (35) feet of a public street intersection.

No Billboard shall be placed within seventy five (75) feet of another billboard on the same side of the street.

Electronic Billboards shall meet all performance standards for electronic signs under Section 1907. No electronic Billboard shall exceed Three hundred (300) square feet in size.

**CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE GUIDE
PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

SIGNS

- Please read all of the following information.
- The following is a check list. You must have a "checkmark" in all the sections listed below prior to submitting your application.

_____ "Affidavit of Exemption" (See attached form) If you are hiring a contractor to construct your structure, and they have workers' compensation, have the contractor or their insurance carrier provide us with a "Certificate of Insurance" showing proof of such. If the homeowner or a contractor without workers' compensation is constructing the structure, the attached form must be completed and notarized.

_____ 3 (three) complete sets of sealed drawings that show the design and construction including all material, loads and stresses.

_____ Drawings must be in compliance with appendix H of the 2006 IBC (attached).

_____ Site plan showing placement of sign on lot and or building.

_____ Support structure or attachment of sign.

_____ Type of lighting.

_____ Electrical wiring method, size, type and location including disconnects required.
(Reference NEC Article 600)

_____ Height of sign from grade.

_____ Workers compensation insurance certificate or an affidavit of exemption.

_____ Completed permit application.

MDIA will review plans submitted to determine code compliance. If the minimum submittal requirements are not met, we will ask the applicant to supply additional information. If the minimum requirements are met, the plans will be marked "approved". A permit will be issued and the applicant will be notified of the inspection fees and when they can pick-up the permit at the Municipal Building. All fees shall be paid prior to the issuance of the permit. Then use the inspection procedures provided to have all of the required inspections performed.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES SIGNS

- Building permit must be posted on the site of the work and clearly visible from the road until completion of the project.
- Your approved plans must be available at all times for inspections. These are the plans that were submitted with your application and were marked "Approved" by the Building Code Official.
- The permit applicant or authorized agent is responsible for scheduling all inspections.
- **DO NOT schedule an inspection if the work is not ready!!!!**
- When scheduling an inspection, you must supply your permit number to the inspector.

MINIMUM OF 24 HOUR NOTICE REQUIRED TO MIDDLE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION AGENCY, INC.

Free standing signs:

1. Footing inspection – hole must be dug for support posts. The inspection must be approved prior to placing of concrete.

Inspector, John Balsler

Phone, 1-800-662-6342

2. Electrical inspection if applicable

- Trench inspection prior to backfill (if applicable)
- Final inspection

Inspector, Bob Gouldsbarry

Phone, 1-800-608-6342

3. Final inspection – when job is completely finished, prior to occupancy permit and after all other required inspections have been done and approved.

Inspector, John Balsler

Phone, 1-800-662-6342

Wall mounted signs:

1. Attachment inspection

Inspector, John Balsler

Phone, 1-800-662-6342

2. Electrical inspection

Inspector, Bob Gouldsbarry

Phone, 1-800-608-6342

3. Final inspection – when job is completely finished, prior to occupancy permit and after all other required inspections have been done and approved.

Inspector, John Balsler

Phone, 1-800-662-6342

APPENDIX H

SIGNS

SECTION H101 GENERAL

H101.1 General. A sign shall not be erected in a manner that would confuse or obstruct the view of or interfere with exit signs required by Chapter 10 or with official traffic signs, signals or devices. Signs and sign support structures, together with their supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation. The display surfaces of signs shall be kept neatly painted or posted at all times.

H101.2 Signs exempt from permits. The following signs are exempt from the requirements to obtain a permit before erection:

1. Painted nonilluminated signs.
2. Temporary signs announcing the sale or rent of property.
3. Signs erected by transportation authorities.
4. Projecting signs not exceeding 2.5 square feet (0.23 m²).
5. The changing of moveable parts of an approved sign that is designed for such changes, or the repainting or repositioning of display matter shall not be deemed an alteration.

SECTION H102 DEFINITIONS

H102.1 General. Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein. Refer to Chapter 2 of the *International Building Code* for general definitions.

COMBINATION SIGN. A sign incorporating any combination of the features of pole, projecting and roof signs.

DISPLAY SIGN. The area made available by the sign structure for the purpose of displaying the advertising message.

ELECTRIC SIGN. A sign containing electrical wiring, but not including signs illuminated by an exterior light source.

GROUND SIGN. A billboard or similar type of sign which is supported by one or more uprights, poles or braces in or upon the ground other than a combination sign or pole sign, as defined by this code.

POLE SIGN. A sign wholly supported by a sign structure in the ground.

PORTABLE DISPLAY SURFACE. A display surface temporarily fixed to a standardized advertising structure which is regularly moved from structure to structure at periodic intervals.

PROJECTING SIGN. A sign other than a wall sign, which projects from and is supported by a wall of a building or structure.

ROOF SIGN. A sign erected upon or above a roof or parapet of a building or structure.

SIGN. Any letter, figure, character, mark, plane, point, marquee sign, design, poster, pictorial, picture, stroke, stripe, line, trademark, reading matter or illuminated service, which shall be constructed, placed, attached, painted, erected, fastened or manufactured in any manner whatsoever, so that the same shall be used for the attraction of the public to any place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine or merchandise, whatsoever, which is displayed in any manner outdoors. Every sign shall be classified and conform to the requirements of that classification as set forth in this chapter.

SIGN STRUCTURE. Any structure which supports or is capable of supporting a sign as defined in this code. A sign structure is permitted to be a single pole and is not required to be an integral part of the building.

WALL SIGN. Any sign attached to or erected against the wall of a building or structure, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of said wall.

SECTION H103 LOCATION

H103.1 Location restrictions. Signs shall not be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape or any window or door or opening used as a means of egress or so as to prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof. A sign shall not be attached in any form, shape or manner to a fire escape, nor be placed in such manner as to interfere with any opening required for ventilation.

SECTION H104 IDENTIFICATION

H104.1 Identification. Every outdoor advertising display sign hereafter erected, constructed or maintained, for which a permit is required shall be plainly marked with the name of the person, firm or corporation erecting and maintaining such sign and shall have affixed on the front thereof the permit number issued for said sign or other method of identification approved by the building official.

SECTION H105 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

H105.1 General requirements. Signs shall be designed and constructed to comply with the provisions of this code for use of materials, loads and stresses,

H105.2 Permits, drawings and specifications. Where a permit is required, as provided in Chapter 1, construction documents shall be required. These documents shall show the dimensions, material and required details of construction, including loads, stresses and anchors.

H105.3 Wind load. Signs shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind pressure as provided for in Chapter 16.

H105.4 Seismic load. Signs designed to withstand wind pressures shall be considered capable of withstanding earthquake loads, except as provided for in Chapter 16.

H105.5 Working stresses. In outdoor advertising display signs, the allowable working stresses shall conform to the requirements of Chapter 16. The working stresses of wire rope and its fastenings shall not exceed 25 percent of the ultimate strength of the rope or fasteners.

Exceptions:

1. The allowable working stresses for steel and wood shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 22 and 23.
2. The working strength of chains, cables, guys or steel rods shall not exceed one-fifth of the ultimate strength of such chains, cables, guys or steel.

H105.6 Attachment. Signs attached to masonry, concrete or steel shall be safely and securely fastened by means of metal anchors, bolts or approved expansion screws of sufficient size and anchorage to safely support the loads applied.

SECTION H106 ELECTRICAL

H106.1 Illumination. A sign shall not be illuminated by other than electrical means, and electrical devices and wiring shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the ICC *Electrical Code*. Any open spark or flame shall not be used for display purposes unless specifically approved.

H106.1.1 Internally illuminated signs. Except as provided for in Sections 402.14 and 2611, where internally illuminated signs have facings of wood or approved plastic, the area of such facing section shall not be more than 120 square feet (11.16 m²) and the wiring for electric lighting shall be entirely enclosed in the sign cabinet with a clearance of not less than 2 inches (51 mm) from the facing material. The dimensional limitation of 120 square feet (11.16 m²) shall not apply to sign facing sections made from flame-resistant-coated fabric (ordinarily known as "flexible sign face plastic") that weighs less than 20 ounces per square yard (678 g/m²) and that, when tested in accordance with NFPA 701, meets the fire propagation performance requirements of both Test 1 and Test 2 or that when tested in accordance with an approved test method, exhibits an average burn time

of 2 seconds or less and a burning extent of 5.9 inches (150 mm) or less for 10 specimens.

H106.2 Electrical service. Signs that require electrical service shall comply with the ICC *Electrical Code*.

SECTION H107 COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

H107.1 Use of combustibles. Wood, approved plastic or plastic veneer panels as provided for in Chapter 26, or other materials of combustible characteristics similar to wood, used for moldings, capping, nailing blocks, letters and laticing, shall comply with Section H109.1, and shall not be used for other ornamental features of signs, unless approved.

H107.1.1 Plastic materials. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, plastic materials which burn at a rate no faster than 2.5 inches per minute (64 mm/s) when tested in accordance with ASTM D 635 shall be deemed approved plastics and can be used as the display surface material and for the letters, decorations and facings on signs and outdoor display structures.

H107.1.2 Electric sign faces. Individual plastic facings of electric signs shall not exceed 200 square feet (18.6 m²) in area.

H107.1.3 Area limitation. If the area of a display surface exceeds 200 square feet (18.6 m²), the area occupied or covered by approved plastics shall be limited to 200 square feet (18.6 m²) plus 50 percent of the difference between 200 square feet (18.6 m²) and the area of display surface. The area of plastic on a display surface shall not in any case exceed 1,100 square feet (102 m²).

H107.1.4 Plastic appurtenances. Letters and decorations mounted on an approved plastic facing or display surface can be made of approved plastics.

SECTION H108 ANIMATED DEVICES

H108.1 Fail-safe device. Signs that contain moving sections or ornaments shall have fail-safe provisions to prevent the section or ornament from releasing and falling or shifting its center of gravity more than 15 inches (381 mm). The fail-safe device shall be in addition to the mechanism and the mechanism's housing which operate the movable section or ornament. The fail-safe device shall be capable of supporting the full dead weight of the section or ornament when the moving mechanism releases.

SECTION H109 GROUND SIGNS

H109.1 Height restrictions. The structural frame of ground signs shall not be erected of combustible materials to a height of more than 35 feet (10668 mm) above the ground. Ground signs constructed entirely of noncombustible material shall not be erected to a height of greater than 100 feet (30 480 mm) above the ground. Greater heights are permitted where

approved and located so as not to create a hazard or danger to the public.

H109.2 Required clearance. The bottom coping of every ground sign shall be not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above the ground or street level, which space can be filled with platform decorative trim or light wooden construction.

H109.3 Wood anchors and supports. Where wood anchors or supports are embedded in the soil, the wood shall be pressure treated with an approved preservative.

SECTION H110 ROOF SIGNS

H110.1 General. Roof signs shall be constructed entirely of metal or other approved noncombustible material except as provided for in Sections H106.1.1 and H107.1. Provisions shall be made for electric grounding of metallic parts. Where combustible materials are permitted in letters or other ornamental features, wiring and tubing shall be kept-free and insulated there from. Roof signs shall be so constructed as to leave a clear space of not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) between the roof level and the lowest part of the sign and shall have at least 5 feet (1524 mm) clearance between the vertical supports thereof. No portion of any roof sign structure shall project beyond an exterior wall.

Exception: Signs on flat roofs with every part of the roof accessible.

H110.2 Bearing plates. The bearing plates of roof signs shall distribute the load directly to or upon masonry walls, steel roof girders, columns or beams. The building shall be designed to avoid overstress of these members.

H110.3 Height of solid signs. A roof sign having a solid surface shall not exceed, at any point, a height of 24 feet (7315 mm) measured from the roof surface.

H110.4 Height of open signs. Open roof signs in which the uniform open area is not less than 40 percent of total gross area shall not exceed a height of 75 feet (22 860 mm) on buildings of Type 1 or Type 2 construction. On buildings of other construction types, the height shall not exceed 40 feet (12 192 mm). Such signs shall be thoroughly secured to the building upon which they are installed, erected or constructed by iron, metal anchors, bolts, supports, chains, stranded cables, steel rods or braces and they shall be maintained in good condition.

H110.5 Height of closed signs. A closed roof sign shall not be erected to a height greater than 50 feet (15 240 mm) above the roof of buildings of Type 1 or Type 2 construction, nor more than 35 feet (10 668 mm) above the roof of buildings of Type 3, 4 or 5 construction.

SECTION H111 WALL SIGNS

H111.1 Materials. Wall signs which have an area exceeding 40 square feet (3.72 m²) shall be constructed of metal or other approved noncombustible material, except for nailing rails and as provided for in Sections H106.1.1 and H107.1.

H111.2 Exterior wall mounting details. Wall signs attached to exterior walls of solid masonry, concrete or stone shall be safely and securely attached by means of metal anchors, bolts or expansion screws of not less than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) diameter and shall be embedded at least 5 inches (127 mm). Wood blocks shall not be used for anchorage, except in the case of wall signs attached to buildings with walls of wood. A wall sign shall not be supported by anchorages secured to an unbraced parapet wall.

H111.3 Extension. Wall signs shall not extend above the top of the wall, nor beyond the ends of the wall to which the signs are attached unless such signs conform to the requirements for roof signs, projecting signs or ground signs.

SECTION H112 PROJECTING SIGNS

H112.1 General. Projecting signs shall be constructed entirely of metal or other noncombustible material and securely attached to a building or structure by metal supports such as bolts, anchors, supports, chains, guys or steel rods. Staples or nails shall not be used to secure any projecting sign to any building or structure. The dead load of projecting signs not parallel to the building or structure and the load due to wind pressure shall be supported with chains, guys or steel rods having net cross-sectional dimension of not less than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) diameter. Such supports shall be erected or maintained at an angle of at least 45 percent (0.78 rad) with the horizontal to resist the dead load and at angle of 45 percent (0.78 rad) or more with the face of the sign to resist the specified wind pressure. If such projecting sign exceeds 30 square feet (2.8 m²) in one facial area, there shall be provided at least two such supports on each side not more than 8 feet (2438 mm) apart to resist the wind pressure.

H112.2 Attachment of supports. Supports shall be secured to a bolt or expansion screw that will develop the strength of the supporting chains, guys or steel rods, with a minimum 3/8 inch (15.9 mm) bolt or lag screw, by an expansion shield. Turn buckles shall be placed in chains, guys of steel rods supporting projecting signs.

H112.3 Wall mounting details. Chains, cables, guys or steel rods used to support the live or dead load of projecting signs are permitted to be fastened to solid masonry walls with expansion bolts or by machine screws in iron supports, but such supports shall not be attached to an unbraced parapet wall. Where the supports must be fastened to walls made of wood, the supporting anchor bolts must go through the wall and be plated or fastened on the inside in a secure manner.

H112.4 Height limitation. A projecting sign shall not be erected on the wall of any building so as to project above the roof or cornice wall or above the roof level where there is no cornice wall; except that a sign erected at a right angle to the building, the horizontal width of which sign is perpendicular to such a wall and does not exceed 18 inches (457 mm), is permitted to be erected to a height not exceeding 2 feet (610 mm) above the roof or cornice wall or above the roof level where there is no cornice wall. A sign attached to a corner of a building and parallel to the vertical

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line of such corner shall be deemed to be erected at a right angle to the building wall.

H112.5 Additional loads. Projecting sign structures which will be used to support an individual on a ladder or other servicing device, whether or not specifically designed for the servicing device, shall be capable of supporting the anticipated additional load, but not less than a 100-pound (445 N) concentrated horizontal load and a 300-pound (1334 N) concentrated vertical load applied at the point of assumed or most eccentric loading. The building component to which the projecting sign is attached shall also be designed to support the additional loads.

**SECTION H113
MARQUEE SIGNS**

H113.1 Materials. Marquee signs shall be constructed entirely of metal or other approved noncombustible material except as provided for in Sections H106.1.1 and H107.1.

H113.2 Attachment. Marquee signs shall be attached to approved marquees that are constructed in accordance with Section 3106.

H113.3 Dimensions. Marquee signs, whether on the front or side, shall not project beyond the perimeter of the marquee.

H113.4 Height limitation. Marquee signs shall not extend more than 6 feet (1829 mm) above, nor 1 foot (305 mm) below such marquee, but under no circumstances shall the sign or signs have a vertical dimension greater than 8 feet (2438 mm).

**SECTION H114
PORTABLE SIGNS**

H114.1 General. Portable signs shall conform to requirements for ground, roof, projecting, flat and temporary signs where such signs are used in a similar capacity. The requirements of this section shall not be construed to require portable signs to have connections to surfaces, tie-downs or foundations where provisions are made by temporary means or configuration of the structure to provide stability for the expected duration of the installation.

**TABLE 4-A SIZE, THICKNESS & TYPE OF GLASS
PANELS IN SIGNS**

MAXIMUM SIZE OF EXPOSED PANEL		MINIMUM THICKNESS OF GLASS (inches)	TYPE OF GLASS
Any dimension (inches)	Area (square inches)		
30	500	1/8	Plain, plate or wired
45	700	3/16	Plain, plate or wired
144	3,600	1/4	Plain, plate or wired
>144	>3,600	1/4	Wired glass

For SI: 1 inch=25.4 mm, 1 square inch = 645.16 mm².

**TABLE 4-B THICKNESS
OF PROJECTION SIGN**

Projection (feet)	Maximum Thickness (feet)
5	2
4	2.5
3	3
2	3.5
1	4

For SI: 1 foot=304.8 mm.

**SECTION H115
REFERENCED STANDARDS**

ASTM D 635-03	Test Method for Rate of Burning and/or Extent and Time of Burning of Self-Supporting Plastics in a Horizontal Position	H107.1.1
ICC EC-06	ICC Electrical Code	H106.1, H106.2
NFPA 701-99	Methods of Fire Test for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films	H106.1.1

THIS FORM REQUIRES A NOTARY SEAL

AFFIDAVIT OF EXEMPTION

The undersigned affirm that he/she is not required to provide workers compensation insurance under the provisions of Pennsylvania's Workers' Compensation Law for one of the following reasons, as indicated:

_____ Property owner performing own work. If property owner does hire contractor to perform any work pursuant to building permit, contractor must provide proof of workers' compensation insurance to the municipality. Homeowner assumes liability for contractor compliance with this requirement.

_____ Contractor has no employees. Contractor prohibited by law from employing any individual to perform work pursuant to this building permit unless contractor provides proof of insurance to the municipality.

_____ Religious exemption under the Workers' Compensation Law. All employees of contractor are exempt from workers' compensation insurance (attach copies of religious exemption letter for all employees).

Signature of Applicant

County of _____

Municipality of _____

Subscribed, sworn to and
acknowledged before me by the above
_____ this _____ Day
of _____
20 _____.

SEAL

Notary Public