

ARTICLE VI. SIGN SPECIFICATIONS AND DESIGN

Section 11-07. Sign specifications and design.

A. CONSTRUCTION OF SIGN SUPPORTS. The supports for all signs or sign structures shall be placed in or upon private property and shall be securely built, constructed, and erected in conformance with the requirements of this chapter.

B. WIND RESISTANCE.

1. Signs and sign structures shall be designed and constructed to resist wind forces as specified in this section.
2. All bracing systems shall be designed and constructed to transfer lateral forces to the foundations.
3. For signs on buildings, the dead and lateral loads shall be transmitted through the structural frame of the building to the ground in such a manner as not to overstress any of the elements thereof.
4. The overturning moment produced from lateral forces shall in no case exceed two-thirds ($2/3$) of the dead-load resisting moment.

C. ANCHORING. Uplift due to overturning shall be adequately resisted by proper anchorage to the ground or to the structural frame of the building. The weight of earth superimposed over footings may be used in determining the dead-load resisting moment. Such earth shall be carefully placed and thoroughly compacted.

D. WIND LOADS.

1. Signs and sign structures shall be designed to resist wind forces as specified in the current city building code. Copies of all sections referenced herein will be furnished upon request to the Building Inspection division of the Community Development department.
2. Vertical design loads, except roof live loads, shall be assumed to be acting simultaneously with the wind loads.

E. ALLOWABLE STRESSES.

1. The design of wood, concrete, steel, or aluminum members shall conform to the requirements of the current city building code.
2. Loads, both vertical and horizontal, exerted on the soil shall not produce stresses exceeding those specified in the current city building code.
3. The working stresses of wire rope and its fastenings shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the ultimate strength of the rope or fasteners.
4. Working stresses for wind loads combined with dead loads may be increased as specified in the current city building code.

F. GENERALLY.

1. Materials of construction for signs and sign structures shall be of the quality and grade as specified for buildings in the current city building code.
2. In all signs and sign structures the materials and details of construction shall, in the absence of specified requirements, conform to the provisions of this chapter.

G. STRUCTURAL STEEL. Structural steel shall be of such quality as to conform to the current city building code. Secondary members in contact with or directly supporting the display surface may be formed of light gauge steel, provided such members are designed in accordance with the specifications of the design of light gauge steel as specified in the current city building code and in addition shall be galvanized. Secondary members, when formed integrally with the display surface, shall be not less than 0.024 inch in thickness. When not formed integrally with the display surface, the minimum thickness of the secondary members shall be 0.10 inch. The minimum thickness of hot-rolled steel members furnishing structural support for signs shall be one-fourth (1/4) inch, except that, if galvanized, such members shall be not less than one-eighth (1/8) inch thick. Steel pipes shall be of such quality as to conform to the current city building code.

H. WOOD PRESERVATION. Anchors and supports when of wood and embedded in the soil shall be pressure treated with an approved preservative. Such members shall be marked or branded by an approved agency.

I. RESTRICTIONS ON COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS. Freestanding signs and low profile/monument signs may be constructed of any material meeting the requirements of this chapter. Wall signs, projecting signs, and awning, canopy and/or marquee signs shall be of noncombustible materials, except as provided in Section 11-07 (J).

1. No combustible materials other than approved plastics shall be used in the construction of electric signs.
2. Roof signs may be constructed of combustible materials on roofs of noncombustible construction.
3. Non-electric wall signs may be constructed of combustible materials on walls allowed to be of unprotected combustible construction.

J. NONSTRUCTURAL TRIM. Nonstructural trim may be composed of wood, metal, approved plastics, or any combination thereof.

K. ANCHORAGE.

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

2. No wooden blocks or plugs or anchors with wood used in connection with screws or nails shall be considered proper anchorage, except in the case of signs attached to wood framing.

L. DISPLAY SURFACES.

1. Display surfaces in all types of signs located outside of the Old Town Design District and the Old Town Center District shall be made of metal, masonry, wood, glass or approved plastics.

2. Display surfaces in all types of signs located within the Old Town Design District and the Old Town Center District shall be made of wood, molded polyurethane, metal or masonry with painted, vinyl, engraved or mounted letters. Materials or paints that are extremely bright, fluorescent or neon in color shall not be permitted on permissible signs located within the Old Town Design District or the Old Town Center District; however, limited use of neon lighting on signs is allowed. Only colors similar to or comparable to the palette certified by the National Trust for Historic Preservation shall be allowed.

M. APPROVED PLASTICS. The Building Official shall require that sufficient technical data be submitted to substantiate the proposed use of any plastic material and if it is determined that the evidence submitted is satisfactory for the use intended, he may approve its use.

N. CLEARANCE OF CONDUCTORS, ETC. The following illustrates the requirements of this chapter:

Communication Conductors and Cables, Guys, Messengers, Lightning Protection Wires, Neutral Conductors and Supply Cables	Supply Line Conductors and Street Lighting Conductors Open Supply Line Conductors (Voltages are Phase to Ground)
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		0 to 750 V	750V to 8.7 kV	8.7 to 22 kV	22 to 50 kV
Clearance of :	(Feet)	(Feet)	(Feet)	(Feet)	(Feet)
Buildings					
Horizontal:					
To walls and projections	3	5	5	6	7
To unguarded windows	3	5	5	6	7
To balconies and areas accessible to pedestrians ¹	3	5	5	6	7
Vertical:					
Above or below roofs or projections not accessible to pedestrians	3	10	10	10	11
Above or below balconies and roofs accessible to pedestrians ¹	8	3 15	15	15	16
Above roofs accessible to truck traffic,	18	18	20	20	21
Above roofs accessible to vehicles, but not subject to truck traffic	10	3 15	20	20	21
Signs, chimneys, radio and television antennas, tanks, and other installations not classified as buildings or bridges²					
Horizontal	3	5	5	6	7
Vertical above or below	3	5	8	8	9

1. A roof, balcony, or area is considered accessible to pedestrians if the means of access is through a doorway, ramp, stairway, or permanently mounted ladder.
2. The required clearances shall be increased to allow for the movement of motorized signs and other movable attachments.
3. This clearance may be reduced to twelve (12) feet for supply conductors limited to 300 volts to ground if more than twenty-five (25) feet measured in any direction from a swimming pool, swimming area, or diving platform.
4. For the purpose of this rule, trucks are defined as any vehicles exceeding eight (8) feet in height.

O. MAINTENANCE. All signs and sign structures, together with all of their supports, braces, guys, and anchors shall be kept in repair and proper state of preservation. The display surface of all signs shall be kept neatly painted or posted at all times. Should the Building Official find that any such sign or sign structure is not so maintained, is unsafe, or insecure, or is a menace to the public, or has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this chapter, a written notice and order shall be given to the permittee or owner thereof. Such notice and order shall contain the following:

1. The street address and description sufficient for identification of the location of such sign.
2. A statement that the Building Official has found such sign to be in violation of this chapter or other laws, codes, or ordinances governing signs, together with a general description of such conditions found to cause such sign to be in violation of this chapter or other laws, codes, or ordinances governing signs.
3. A statement of action required to be taken as determined by the Building Official:

- a. If such action has not begun within ten (10) working days after such notice or completed within twenty (20) working days after commencement, the city may issue citations or the city may maintain, repair, alter, or remove such sign to effect compliance. The cost incurred by the city for such work shall be assessed against the sign owner, the owner of the property upon which such sign is located, or the permittee.
- b. The Building Official may cause any sign, which in his opinion, is an immediate danger to persons or property to be removed summarily and without notice.

P. NONCONFORMING SIGNS.

Any sign legally in existence at the time of enactment of this ordinance is considered legally nonconforming and remains so as long as it is not enlarged or replaced. Any nonconforming sign, not located in The Old Town Design District or Old Town Center District, that is, enlarged, expanded, replaced, or modified, shall be made to conform to the specific requirements of this ordinance. Any nonconforming sign located in the Old Town Design District or the Old Town Center District that is altered, enlarged, expanded, replaced, modified, or re-faced shall be made to conform to the specific requirements of this ordinance. Any nonconforming sign whose sign area is fifty percent (50%) damaged or destroyed shall be made to conform to this chapter or shall be removed. Nonconforming signs whose use has been discontinued shall be removed.

Q. VISIBILITY AT INTERSECTIONS.

1. No sign shall obstruct the view in any direction at the intersection of a street or with an alley or driveway.
 - a. Vision at all intersections where streets intersect at or near right angles shall be clear at elevations between two and one-half (2 ½) feet and nine (9) feet above the street grade, within a triangular area formed by extending the two (2) curb lines from their point of intersection, as illustrated below in figure 1, forty-five (45) feet and connecting these points with an imaginary line, thereby making a triangle. If there are no curbs existing, the triangular area shall be formed by extending the property lines from their point of intersection twenty-five (25) feet and connecting these points with an imaginary line, thereby making a triangle.
 - b. The aforementioned restrictions also apply to streets, which do not intersect at right angles, except that the forty-five (45) feet and the twenty-five (25) feet dimensions shall not necessarily be minimum requirements. In such cases, the City traffic engineer or his designee shall have the authority to vary such requirements, as he deems necessary to provide safety for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

2. Setbacks for all other sign locations are provided for in other sections of this chapter. Setbacks shall be measured from the leading edge of the sign to the property line.

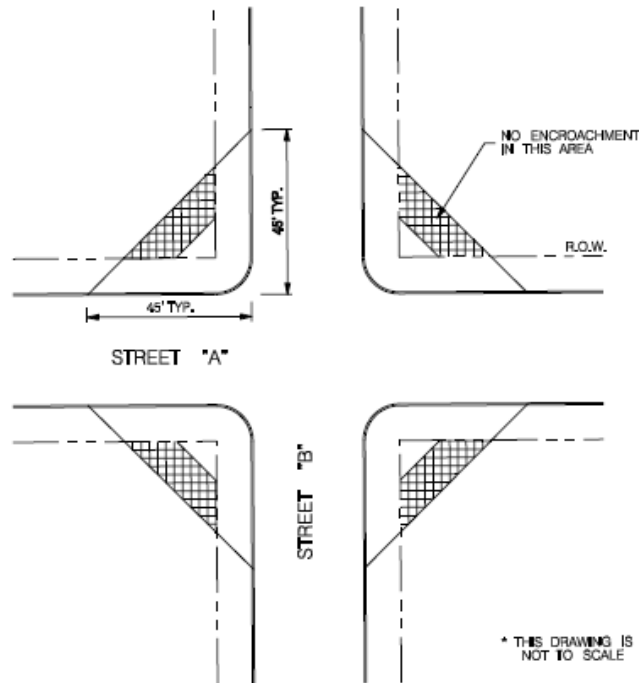


FIGURE 1.

R. CONSENT REQUIRED OF PROPERTY OWNER. A sign shall not be placed on any property without written consent of the owner or the owner's authorized agent.

S. IDENTIFICATION OF MANUFACTURED, INSTALLER. Each sign shall be identified by a label, nameplate, or trademark identifying the manufacturer and/or installer of the sign, except those signs that do not require the submittal of a sign plan.

T. NEW SIGNS RESTRICTED. Sign plans shall not be approved for new signs where an illegal sign exists on the premises.

U. SEXUALLY-ORIENTED BUSINESSES.

1. Any sign advertising a sexually-oriented business shall conform to all the requirements of this chapter and shall not advertise, either graphically or verbally, either by explicit or literal expression, connotation or implied reference, any specified sexual activity or specified anatomical area.
2. Because of the objectionable characteristics, and a deleterious effect upon the quality of life in surrounding neighborhoods that a sexually-oriented business may produce, the allowable square footage of such signs are limited to one hundred fifty (150) square feet total per building.

V. PROJECTION AND CLEARANCE.

1. Signs shall conform to the clearance and projection requirements of this chapter.
 - a. *Clearance from power lines.* Signs shall conform to the power line clearance table in Section 11.07 (N) or the latest revision of the current city electrical code.
 - b. *Clearance from fire escapes, exits, or standpipes.* No sign or sign structure shall be erected in such a manner that any portion of its surface or supports will interfere in any way with the free use of any fire escape, exit, standpipe, or fire department connection.
 - c. *Obstruction of openings.* No sign shall obstruct any opening to such an extent that light or ventilation is reduced to a point below that required by the current city building code.
2. Signs erected within five (5) feet of an exterior wall in which there are openings within the area of the sign shall be constructed of noncombustible material or approved plastics.