

SIGNS

§151.075 COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS REQUIRED.

No sign or sign structure may be erected, posted, hung, painted, rehung, repainted, repaired, replaced, changed, or maintained in any district except in compliance with this subchapter.

(Ord. passed 12-16-85)

§151.076 GENERAL SIGN REGULATIONS.

(A) No sign or sign structure shall be erected or constructed to interfere with vision clearance as defined in §151.023.0

(B) No ground sign structure may be placed in the right-of-way.

(C) Individual stores in a shopping center may not have separate ground sign structures. The shopping center as a whole may display signs in accordance with this section.

(D) Signs and sign structures shall meet all requirements of the State Building Code.

(E) Signs and sign structures shall be maintained at all times in a state of proper repair, with all braces, bolts, clips, guys, anchors, supporting frames, and fastening free from deterioration, insect infestation, rot, rust, or loosening. All signs shall be kept neatly finished, with lettering intact, and if of a type which requires painting, free from visible peeling or chipping.

(F) Obsolete signs and their supporting structures shall be removed within 90 days after they have been made obsolete by reason of the activity, business, product, or usage which the sign identifies or advertises being abandoned at the location to which to sign refers. This provision does not refer to billboards, until the commercial use off the billboard for rent has ceased. An extension of the 90 day time limit for removal may be granted by the Zoning Administrator for reasonable cause.

(G) Illuminated signs shall be limited to those lighted from behind to silhouette letters and internally illuminated and spotlighted signs. All illuminated and spotlighted signs shall be placed so as to prevent the light rays, illumination, or glare from being cast directly on any building or on traffic.

(H) Strings of light bulbs used in connection with commercial premises for commercial purposes shall be limited to white, yellow, or bug repellant bulbs and shall not cause glare on traffic or adjoining premises.

(Ord. passed 12-16-85)

§151.077 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following types of signs are expressly prohibited:

(A) Signs with moving, revolving, or rotating parts, or any sign which moves or gives an illusion of movement, except for time and temperature units and traditional barber poles, shall be prohibited in all districts;

(B) Signs with lights or illumination which flash, move, rotate, blink, flicker, vary in intensity or color, or use intermittent electrical pulsations, except for time and temperature units;

(C) Signs which obstruct the view of or could be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device or make use of the words “stop”, “look”, “danger”, or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic;

(D) Signs which openings required to be left uncovered or unobstructed by building codes, the housing code, or other laws relating to buildings.

(Ord. passed 12-16-85)

§151.078 OFF-SITE ADVERTISING SIGNS.

Off-site advertising signs (billboards) shall be permitted only as a special use in the industrial district. The conditions in §151.113 are not applicable to off-site advertising signs. A special use permit shall be granted provided the following conditions are met:

(A) The property on which the sign is to be located must be adjacent to an interstate or federal aid primary highway;

(B) The sign must be located within 660 feet of the edge of the right-of-way of such highway;

(C) The sign shall comply with all regulations of the State Department of Transportation and with the North Carolina General Statutes;

(D) No two structures shall be placed less than 500 feet apart. Distance shall be measured as specified in the North Carolina Administrative Code T19A:02E.0200;

(E) The sign will be compatible with the general neighborhood in which it is located and will not have a detrimental effect on adjoining properties.

(Ord. passed 12-16-85)

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§151.079 NONCONFORMING SIGNS.

Nonconforming signs, when removed for other than normal maintenance, may not be erected again, nor may any such sign be replaced with another nonconforming sign.

(Ord. passed 12-16-85)

§151.080 PERMITTED SIGNS.

Signs shall be permitted in accordance with the table below.

| <i>Type of Sign</i> | <i>Maximum Size</i> | <i>Maximum Height</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Other Requirements</i> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Advertising, off-site (billboards) | See §151.078 | | Special use in I | See §151.078 |
| Agricultural, advertising products produced on premises | 32 sq. ft. | 8 feet | Permitted use in R-20 and I | |
| Awning, silk-screened or sewn on front of awning | N/A | N/A | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I & O&I | |
| Bulletin board, church or public | 32 sq. ft. | 8 feet | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Canopy signs (may also be placed on non-raising marquees) | 4 sq. ft. | | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I & O&I | Identification only. 1 per establishment entranceway. Bottom of sign must be 7 feet above sidewalk level – more over public right-of-way if required by town regulations |
| Construction site placards | 64 sq. ft. | 12 feet | Permitted use in all districts | Must be removed when construction has been completed |
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| <i>Type of Sign</i> | <i>Maximum Size</i> | <i>Maximum Height</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Other Requirements</i> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Directional signs containing no advertising matter</i> | | | | |
| Traffic, safety, utility warning, public | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Pedestrian, public | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Traffic and pedestrian, private | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| No trespassing | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Off-site directional to churches, meeting halls, civic clubs | 12 sq. ft. | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Temporary directional to garage sales and similar events in residential areas, excluding portable commercial signs | 4 sq. ft. | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Entrance or monument-type signs to subdivisions, neighborhoods, public, commercial, industrial, institutional establishments and mobile home parks | 32 sq. ft. | 8 feet | Permitted use in all districts | No more than 2 per entrance allowed |

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| <i>Type of Sign</i> | <i>Maximum Size</i> | <i>Maximum Height</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Other Requirements</i> |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| The flag, pennant, or insignia of any nation, state, county, city, religious, civic of fraternal organization or educational institution, when not in connection with a commercial promotion, or as an advertising device or as an integral part of another sign | 10 sq. ft. 15 sq. ft. | 9 feet | Permitted use in all districts | In R-20, R-12, and R-8 districts, wall and projecting insignia may not exceed size nor may they project more than 9 feet from wall at farthest point. In O&I business and industrial districts, insignia may be placed on signs permitted in those districts. In any district, flags or pennants shall not exceed 15 square feet or, if on a pole, one-fourth height of a pole, whichever gives the flag the greater permitted area |
| Ground signs | 150 sq. ft. | 35 feet | Permitted use in I | No more than 1 per street frontage containing entrance to use. May be used only for identification or on-site advertising. |
| Ground signs | 40 sq. ft. | 20 feet | Permitted use in C-1, C-2 Special use in O&I | Must be at least 30 ft. from any other ground sign. Must meet vision clearance of §151.023. |
| House numbers | 4 sq. ft. | | Permitted use in all districts | May contain no advertising matter |
| Memorial signs, tablets, name of building and date of construction | | | Permitted use in all districts | Must be cut into a masonry surface or case of metal and affixed flat against a surface |
| Name of occupant of residential premises | 2 sq. ft. | | Permitted use in all districts | |

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| <i>Type of Sign</i> | <i>Maximum Size</i> | <i>Maximum Height</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Other Requirements</i> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Newspaper names on newspaper tubes | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| No vacancy signs | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Political signs | 4 sq. ft. | | | Must be removed within 15 days after last election to which they pertain |
| Portable signs, including any signs mounted on a vehicle or a trailer or trailer-type device | 32 sq. ft. | 10 feet | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I | Nonrenewable permit from Zoning Administrator required. 20 day time limit. No more than 1 sign per establishment per street frontage. Same establishment may not have temporary signs again for 30 days after removal of such signs. Such signs shall not have colored flashing lights or lights which cause glare on traffic or adjacent properties. Such signs shall not be located on the public right-of-way nor obstruct vision clearance as indicated in §151.076(A) |
| Professional or announcement signs | 4 | | Permitted use in all districts | One per establishment |
| Projecting signs | 20 | | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I | Sign may be no more than 9 feet from wall at farthest point. 1 such sign per face on street, or 2 per establishment, whichever is less. Such sign may be hung on corner of building but shall count against the maximum number |

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| <i>Type of Sign</i> | <i>Maximum Size</i> | <i>Maximum Height</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Other Requirements</i> |
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| | | | | <p>allowed above.</p> <p>Establishment may not also have a wall or roof sign on same face as projecting sign.</p> <p>Corner sign shall count as one face.</p> |
| Real estate signs | 6 32 | <p>Permitted use in residential and R-20 districts</p> <p>Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I</p> | | |
| Religious symbols at formal places of worship | | | Permitted use in all districts | |
| Roof signs – see wall signs | | | | |
| Service station signs, automobile and truck | | | Permitted use in all districts when accessory to a service station | |
| Signs on racks for the orderly display of engine oil, provided such signs are no longer than the rack | | | | |
| Signs on pumps and/or pump islands concerning the type and price of the fuel | | | | |
| Signs on open portable tire racks provided the signs | | | | |

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| <i>Type of Sign</i> | <i>Maximum Size</i> | <i>Maximum Height</i> | <i>District</i> | <i>Other Requirements</i> |
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| are no longer than the rack | | | | |

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| A sign may be painted on the inside and outside front door face of the closed tire rack, but shall not be painted on the sides or rear | | | | |
| One double-faced on-site advertising sign per street frontage showing the current price of fuel sold on the premises. Such sign shall be located off the right-of-way | 20 | 5 | | |
| Temporary banners, pennants, streamers, excluding portable commercial signs | | | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I | Only for opening of new business. May remain for no more than 4 weeks. |
| Temporary signs relating to farm auctions, agricultural production sales, annual charitable civic or fraternal events, excluding portable commercial signs. | 20 off-site 32 on-site | | Permitted use in all districts. | Off-site. No more than 1 per lot. On-site. No more than 3 per lot. May remain for no more than 45 days in all. |
| Vending machine signs painted or mounted on the machine related to the products in the machine; bank machine or book depository signs which instruct customers or patrons | | | Permitted use in all districts | |

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| Wall or roof signs | 1.25 square feet of sign area per running foot of building frontage | Such signs shall not project over the roofline of the building to which they are attached. | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I, O&I | <p>Wall signs must be mounted on area of wall free of windows, doors, or other architectural features.</p> <p>Only one wall, roof, or projecting sign per establishment per street frontage is permitted other than those specifically mentioned elsewhere in this table.</p> <p>Such signs may be used only for identification or on-site advertising and at least 80% of sign face shall be for identification.</p> |
| Window signs | | | Permitted use in C-1, C-2, I | |

(Ord. passed 12-16-85)