

Significant Changes to the Sign Code

Exemptions: All exemptions from the old code are covered in the new code under exemptions or temporary signs. Additionally the size of exempt signs were increased for commercial business and daily advertising signs (sandwich boards) no larger than 8 sq. ft. were added as an exemption.

Temporary signs: Non-profit, real-estate and political signs are carried over from the old code with many more additions.

Prohibited Signs: All prohibited signs were carried over from the existing code. Additions include: not obstructing clear vision, no billboards other than those already permitted, vehicle signs used to provide a sign that would otherwise not be permitted and small signs tacked to telephone poles and the like. This section also reverses a long standing prohibition on flashing, rotating, scrolling type signs so long as they aren't distracting to drivers.

Park Reserve Zone: Sets strict standards on what is allowed. There are no standards in the existing code.

Residential Zones: The new code primarily adds a standard for commercial uses and allows externally illuminated signs and canopy and awning signs. The existing code is limited in what was allowed in residential zones specifically for commercial uses.

Commercial Zones:

Wall signs - Changes the way wall signs are calculated by considering the length of storefront and setting a 6% maximum for the entire facade. Penalties for having other signs are eliminated, secondary tenant signs are allowed without penalty and there are no specifics per zone. The intent is to allow roughly the same size signs with fewer measurements and a clearer way of calculating.

Ground mounted & Pole signs – Eliminates pole signs from the C-1 zone and sets height and size standards not in the existing code.

Roof Signs – Sets standards for roof signs, replacing a section that is difficult to understand.

Projecting signs – Adds a maximum size of 16 square feet.

Marquee signs – Increases their size, imposes a minimum distance to the curb.

Awning & Canopy signs – New section clears up how awning and canopy signs can be used. They are considered part of the wall sign calculation.

Industrial & Airport Zones:

Wall signs – Maximum 10% of façade not to exceed 350 sq. ft. Will override the M-3 sign code from the zone criteria.

Ground mounted and Pole signs - Sets height and size standards not in the existing code.

Marquee, Projecting, Awning & Canopy signs – none

Building Code: Removes much of the building code criteria and simply refers to the International Building Code.