

UNIT 1 – INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL STANDARDS

ASSIGNMENT

Read and study part IA and IIA of the MUTCD and the North Carolina Supplement to the MUTCD. Answer review questions. Take and pass the written test.

KEY POINTS

A sign is defined as a traffic control device that is placed on or adjacent to a street or highway by the authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

It is very important that any decision to use a particular sign at a particular location should be made on the basis of an engineering study of the location.

A sign and/or its support shall not bear any advertising or commercial message or be used as an advertising medium.

A sign should meet five basic requirements to be effective.

- 1) Fulfill a need
- 2) Command attention
- 3) Convey a clear, simple meaning
- 4) Command respect of road users
- 5) Give adequate time for proper response

Care should be taken not to install too many signs.

Signs should generally be located on the right-hand side of the road.

Signs should be individually erected on separate supports except where one sign supplements another or where route or directional signs must be grouped.

Signs erected in rural areas shall be mounted at a height of at least five feet, measured from the bottom of the sign to the near edge of the pavement. (The height to the bottom of a secondary sign mounted below another sign may be one foot less than the appropriate height specified).

Signs erected in business, commercial, and residential areas shall be mounted at a height of at least seven feet. (The height to the bottom of a secondary sign mounted below another sign may be one foot less than the appropriate height specified).

Normally, signs should not be located closer than six feet from the edge of a paved shoulder, or 12 feet from the edge of the traveled way. Along curb and gutter sections, signs should normally not be located closer than two feet from the face of the

curb. Typically, sign posts for Type D, E, and F signs should be installed at a depth of 42 inches.

Warning signs should be placed in advance of the condition to which they apply.

Regulatory signs should be placed at the point of restriction.

Guide signs should be placed in variable positions in the general area to which they apply.

All traffic signs should be kept in proper position, clean and legible at all times. Damaged signs should be replaced without undue delay.

When installing signs in residential areas, special care should be taken to install the signs on property lines whenever possible to avoid unnecessary clutter in front of someone's home.

The appropriate locating service should be contacted whenever there is a concern that underground utilities are nearby, especially in new residential areas. It normally takes 48 hours to locate any possible utilities; therefore, preplanning is important.

For installing Type D, E, and F signs, the Department of Transportation used galvanized steel, u-channel posts, 4 inch by 4 inch pressure treated wood posts, and square steel tubing.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the definition of a sign?

- 2) Can a sign and/or its support bear any advertising or commercial messages?

YES NO

- 3) What are the five basic requirements that a sign should meet to be effective?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

- 4) What is the minimum mounting height of a sign in a rural area?

_____ Feet

- 5) What is the minimum mounting height of a sign in a business, commercial, or residential area?

_____ Feet

- 6) What is the normal lateral clearance from the edge of the traveled way?

_____ Feet

- 7) Why should care be taken not to install too many signs?

ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1) A sign is defined as a traffic control device that is placed on or adjacent to a street or highway by the authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.
- 2) No (*Page 1A-3 of the MUTCD*)
- 3) Fulfill a need, command attention, convey a clear, simple meaning, command respect of the road users, and give adequate time for proper response. (*Page 1A-1 of the MUTCD*)
- 4) 5 feet (*Page 2A-9 of the MUTCD*)
- 5) 7 feet (*Page 2A-9 of the MUTCD*)
- 6) 12 feet (*Page 2A-10 of the MUTCD*)
- 7) If regulatory and warning signs are used excessively, they tend to lose their effectiveness. (*Page 2A-3 of the MUTCD*)