

CLARIFICATION - ELIGIBILITY

TODS ELIGIBILITY FOR PROGRAM

Eligibility for a Lodging Facility:

A lodging facility may qualify to participate in the TODS Program if all requirements in the Statute and Administrative Code are met, and each lodging rental accommodation includes a sleeping room and separate bathroom, offers adequate on-site parking, and has at least two of the following NCDOT approved tourist-oriented features, characteristics, or amenities located on the property:

- hiking or bicycle trails
- horseback riding
- fishing
- golfing (excluding miniature golf, driving ranges, chip and putt areas and indoor golf)
- rafting
- skiing
- indoor spa with attendant
- lodging facility or other buildings on the property are listed on the National or State Historic Register
- lodging facility is renowned for exceptional architectural features, botanical gardens, or cuisine prepared by elaborate or highly refined methods by professional chefs, otherwise known as haute cuisine
- lodging facility offers exceptional scenic or panoramic views such as direct ocean or mountain views or has natural areas such as waterfalls or caverns that are of outstanding interest to the public

Any lodging applicant that offers amenities not included in the list above must be reviewed and approved by the State Traffic Engineer on a case by case basis.

Tennis courts, swimming pools, hot tubs, and jacuzzis are not considered amenities for the purpose of qualifying for TODS.

Bed and Breakfast Inns are not required to have two amenities to qualify for TODS signing if they are listed on the National or State Historic Register.

CLARIFICATIONS - ELIGIBILITY

General

The hours of operation must be posted on a permanent, on-premise sign located conspicuously at or near the entrance to the facility.

All administrative code requirements are enforced in addition to these clarifications.

(2)(C) Facility Tour Location: Tour times for a Manufacturing Facility or Production Facility that would offer tours of a production process, must be posted on a permanent on-premise sign located conspicuously at or near the entrance to the facility. Tours must be:

- 1) Directed by knowledgeable employee (tour guide) of the business;
- 2) Educational, informative, and entertaining in nature; and
- 3) Of sufficient length to clearly describe the materials, equipment, and processes used in the manufacturing facility (minimum 15 minutes).

(2)(D) Historic Site or District: Tour times for “Historic Site” must be posted on a permanent on-premise sign located conspicuously at or near the entrance to the facility.

Tours must be:

- 1) Directed by a knowledgeable employee (tour guide) of the business
- 2) Educational and informative
- 3) Of sufficient length to clearly describe the historical significance of the site (building/property)
- 4) Tours shall be given of the entire structure or area listed on the national or state historic register, including all floors of multilevel historic homes, buildings, or structures or other historic building or sites on the property.

(2)(E) Recreation area: All equipment, etc., necessary for the activity must be available on site (for rent or at no cost to the customer). For hiking and biking, trails must be signed and properly marked. To qualify as a recreation area, a golf course must be open to the public and must offer tee times to the public within thirty (30) minutes of arrival without requiring prior appointment. On-premise sign(s) at the entrance (from the public road and from any subsequent drive) to any recreational facility, including a golf course, specifying “open to the public” or “public welcome” must be in place unless it is obvious to the TODS/Logo Coordinator or State Programs Engineer that it is a public attraction.

A leisure or recreation activity area may be indoors (in a facility); however, the primary purpose of the facility must be to provide the leisure or recreation activity to the public.

(2)(H) Agricultural Facility: To be considered for TODS, “Agricultural Facilities” (other than a regional farmer’s market or produce stand) must have an actual working farm (or vineyard) on the same site as the facility to which motorists are directed. A guided tour must be provided of the farm or vineyard, as well as of any production processes used by the facility. Tour times (or “Tours Available Upon Request”) must be posted on a permanent on-premise sign located conspicuously at or near the entrance to the facility.

Tours must be:

- 1) Directed by knowledgeable employee (tour guide) of the business;
- 2) Educational, informative, and entertaining in nature;
- 3) Of sufficient length to clearly describe the materials, equipment, and processes used in the production of agricultural products by the facility (minimum 15 minutes); and

4) Conducted regularly [a minimum of two (2) regularly scheduled tours during each day the facility is open to the public] during open business hours; or in the absence of regular tour times, upon customer request [within thirty (30) minutes of request].

If the agricultural facility is a regional farmer's market, it must be frequently visited by customers from outside the area (at least 20 miles away) and be comprised of at least 25,000 SF of covered and/or enclosed area for selling a variety of agricultural products throughout the year.