

UNIT 4 - GUIDE SIGNS

ASSIGNMENT

Read and study part II-D thru part II-F of the MUTCD and the North Carolina Supplement to the MUTCD. Answer review questions. Take and pass the written test.

KEY POINTS

Guide signs are essential to guide drivers along streets and highways, to inform them of interesting routes, to direct them to cities, towns, villages, or other important destinations, to identify nearby rivers and streams, parks, forests, and historical sites, and generally to give such information as will help them along their way in the most simple, direct manner possible.

Most guide signs have a white message on a green background.

For guide signs, sign legibility is a direct function of letter size. The legibility distance must give the driver sufficient time to read the sign before passing.

Guide signs should be limited to three lines of principal legend, including place name, route numbers, and street names.

Arrows are used on many guide signs to indicate the directions toward designated routes or destinations.

Route markers shall be used to identify and mark all numbered highways.

U.S. route markers shall consist of a rectangular 24 X 24 inch or 30 X 24 inch plate, with black numerals on a white shield surrounded by a black background, without a border.

All route marker auxiliaries shall match the color combination of the respective marker which they supplement.

The cardinal direction marker bearing the message EAST, WEST, NORTH, and SOUTH is intended to be mounted directly above a route marker to indicate the general direction of the entire route.

The DETOUR marker shall have a black legend on an orange background, and it is to be mounted on top of a route marker assembly.

A route marker assembly consists of a route marker and auxiliary markers which identify the route and indicate direction.

Where two or more routes follow the same section of highway, the route markers for Interstate, U.S., or N.C. routes shall be mounted in that order from the left in horizontal arrangements and from the top in vertical arrangements. Subject to this order of precedence, route markers for lower-numbered routes shall be placed at the left or top.

Destination guide signs are generally warranted at the intersection of U.S. or state numbered routes with Interstate, U.S., or state numbered routes or at points where they serve to direct traffic from U.S. or state numbered routes to the business section of towns, or to other destinations reached by numbered routes.

In rural areas, Destination signs should be located 200 feet or more in advance of the intersection and following any Junction or Route Turn assemblies that may be required.

Distance signs should be located on important routes leaving towns or cities and just beyond intersections of numbered routes in rural areas.

The legends on expressway guide signs must be kept to a minimum. Two destinations and the directional copy are as much as most drivers can comprehend readily at high speed.

The use of regulatory signs, such as speed limits, in conjunction with overhead guide sign installations, is not recommended.

Word messages in the legend of expressway guide signs shall be in letters at least eight inches high. Lettering size on expressway signs is to be the same for both rural and urban conditions.

Abbreviations are useful when complete messages produce signs that are excessively long; however, when used, they should be unmistakably recognized by the traveling public.

For major and intermediate interchanges, two and preferably three advance guide signs should be used. The recommended location for their placement is one-half, one, and two miles in advance of the exit.

At minor interchanges, only one advance guide sign is required.

Only one supplemental guide sign may be used on each interchange approach.

The gore sign indicates the place of departure from the main-line roadway.

Interstate routes should not be signed as memorial highways.

Drivers should be confronted with consistent signing on the approaches to interchanges, as they drive from one state to another, and when driving through rural or urban areas.

Since freeways offer superior traffic service to population centers located on or near them, the course of the freeway route and the major destinations or *control cities* along it must always be clearly identified.

Letter style and height, and arrow design have been standardized for freeway signs to assure uniform and effective application.

Signs shall have a border of the same color as the legend, to outline their distinctive shape and thereby give them easy recognition and a finished appearance.

Under most circumstances, in ground installations, directional guide signs shall be erected at a minimum height of seven feet above the edge of the pavement to the bottom of the sign. If a sign is mounted below another sign, the major sign shall be at least eight feet and the secondary sign at least five feet above the level of the pavement edge.

Under most circumstances, overhead signs shall have a vertical clearance of not less than 17 feet to the sign, light fixture, or sign bridge, over the entire width of the pavement and shoulders.

Liberal horizontal clearances should be provided for roadside signs and overhead sign supports to provide a recovery area for out-of-control vehicles.

Diagrammatic signs are guide signs that show a graphic view of the exit arrangement in relationship to the main highway, and their use has been shown to be superior to conventional guide signs for some interchanges.

Milepost signs shall be placed on all freeway facilities and shall conform to the general provisions specified for mileposts.

ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1) To guide drivers along streets and highways, to inform them of interesting routes, to direct them to cities, towns, villages, or other important destinations, to identify nearby rivers and streams, parks, forests, and historical sites, and generally to give such information as will help them along their way in the most simple, direct manner possible. *(Page 2D-1 of the MUTCD)*
- 2) white message on a green background *(Page 2D-1 of the MUTCD)*
- 3) 200 feet or more *(Page 2D-22 of the MUTCD)*
- 4) False *(Page 2E-3 of the MUTCD)*
- 5) One *(Page 2E-11 of the MUTCD)*
- 6) 8 inches *(Page 2E-4 of the MUTCD)*
- 7) To indicate the place of departure from the mainline roadway. *(Page 2E-15 of the MUTCD)*
- 8) True *(Page 2F-1 of the MUTCD)*
- 9) 17 feet *(Page 2F-8 of the MUTCD)*