

PROPOSED Text AMENDMENT

DELETE

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SECTION 48 SIGNS

48.00 General Requirements- The following regulations and standards are established to assure compatibility of signs with surrounding land usage, to conserve property values in all zones, and to strengthen the economy of the City. All signs hereafter erected or maintained, except official traffic and street signs, shall conform with the provisions of this section.

48.01 Definition and Regulations- For the purposes of this section, certain terms or words used herein shall be interpreted in accordance therein in the regulation of signs.

- 48.01.01 Signs- Any letters, figures, design, symbol, trademark, or illuminating device intended to attract attention to any place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine or merchandise whatsoever and painted, printed or constructed and displayed in any manner whatsoever out of doors for recognized advertising purposes. However, this shall not include any official court or public notices for the flag, emblem or insignia of a government, school or religious group when displayed for official purposes.
- 48.01.02 Sign, Area of- The entire area within a continuous perimeter, including the extreme limits of actual copy area. It does not include any structural or framing elements lying outside the limits of such sign and not forming an integral part of the display. Only one side of a double-faced sign shall be used in computing the total area of said double-faced sign.
- 48.01.03 Sign, Animated- A sign which rotates, moves, or in any way stimulates motion; except for clocks.
- 48.01.04 Sign, Business- A sign which directs attention only to a business, commodity, service, activity, or product sold, conducted or offered upon the premises where such sign is located.
- 48.01.05 Sign, Flashing- An illuminated sign on which the artificial light is not kept stationary or constant in intensity at all times when in use. Illuminated signs which indicate the time, temperature, date or similar public service information shall not be considered "flashing signs".
- 48.01.06 DELETED (effective 4/15/94)
- 48.01.07 Sign, Projecting- A sign which is attached to the building wall and which extends more than fifteen (15) inches from the face of such wall.
- 48.01.08 Sign, Temporary- A banner, pennant, poster or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard, wallboard or other like materials and intended to be displayed for a limited period of time.
- 48.01.09 Sign Wall- A sign which is attached to the wall of a building, with the face in a plane parallel to such wall, and not extending more than fifteen (15) inches from the face of such wall.
- 48.01.10 Sign, Directory- A sign which is extended to direct attention to non-residential land uses conducted or offered of different premises than those on which such sign is located.

- 48.01.11 Sign, Off-site Advertising- A sign identifying or directing attention to a commercial activity, product, service, business, establishment, commodity or entertainment that is conducted, sold, rented, offered, or provided elsewhere than upon the same property and is not accessory to a use located on the property.
(Added effective 1/22/03)
- 48.01.12 Sign, Halo Style- A method of illumination that does not illuminate the lettering or logo of which it is enclosed and projects a small halo of light around the lettering or logo onto the mounted surface of which it is attached. (Added effective 11/7/03)
- 48.01.13 Sign, Stencil-Cut- A method of illumination that illuminates only the lettering or logo and the remaining face of the sign is not illuminated or opaque in any manner. Also known as channel cut.
(Added effective 11/7/03)

48.02 Exemptions- The following types of signs are exempted from all provisions of this section, except for construction and safety regulations and the following requirements:

- 48.02.01 Public Signs- Signs of a non-commercial nature and in the public interest erected by, or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his public duty, such as safety signs, danger signs, trespassing signs, traffic signs, memorial plaques, signs of historical interest and the like.
- 48.02.02 Institutional Signs- Signs setting forth the name or any simple announcement for any public charitable, educational or religious institution located entirely within the premises of that institution, up to an area of twenty-four (24) sq. ft. Such signs may be illuminated in accordance with the regulations contained hereinafter. If building mounted, these signs shall be flat wall signs and shall not project above the roof line. If ground mounted, the top shall be no more than six (6) feet above ground level.
- 48.02.03 Integral Signs- Names of buildings, dates or erection, monumental citations, commemorative tablets and the like when carved into stone, concrete or similar material or made of bronze, aluminum, or other permanent type construction and made an integral part of the structure.
- 48.02.04 Private Traffic Direction Signs- Signs directing traffic movement onto a premise or within a premise, not exceeding three (3) sq. ft. in area for each sign. Illumination of these signs shall be permitted in accordance with the regulations contained hereinafter. Horizontal directional signs on and flush with paved areas are exempt from these standards.
- 48.02.05 Small Signs- Signs not exceeding two (2) sq. ft. in area, attached flat against the building, stationary and not illuminated, announcing only the same name and occupation of building tenant.
- 48.02.06 Rental Signs- Signs on the premises announcing rooms for rent, table board, apartment or house for rent and not exceeding four (4) sq. ft. in area.
- 48.02.07 Vehicle Signs- Signs on vehicles of any kind, provided the sign is painted or attached directly to the body of the original vehicle and does not project or extend beyond the original manufactured body proper of the vehicle.

- 48.02.08 DELETED- (section deleted effective 11/30/04)

48.03 Temporary Signs- The following signs shall be permitted anywhere within the City and shall not require a permit.

- 48.03.01 Construction Signs- Signs which identify the architects, engineers, contractors and other individuals, or firms involved with the construction, but not including any advertisement of any product, and signs announcing the character of the building enterprise for which the building is intended, during the construction period, to a maximum area of twelve (12) sq. ft. for each firm. The signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days of the beginning of the intended use of the project.
- 48.03.02 Real Estate Signs- Signs advertising the sale, rental or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the signs are displayed, up to a total area of twelve (12) sq. ft. Such signs shall be removed within fourteen (14) days of the sale, rental or lease.
- 48.03.03 Street Banners- Banners advertising a public entertainment or event, if specifically approved by the Commission, and only for locations designed by the Commission during fourteen (14) days before and seven (7) days after the event.
- 48.03.04 Show Windows Signs- Signs in a Window display of merchandise when incorporated with such a display. They need not be related in content with the display.
- 48.03.05 Public Hearing Notice- Notice of any public hearing for any reason authorized by this code shall be given as required by the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. Additionally, the applicant shall cause to be posted a sign or signs and written notice to be given notifying the public of a public hearing related to an application for all such hearings. The signs and the written notice shall be the responsibility of the applicant and posted subject to the following conditions:
 1. The sign shall be posted seven (7) calendar days prior to the day of the public hearing, Eight (8) days if the seventh day is a holiday) and shall not be removed by the applicant until the hearing is closed;
 2. The sign shall be firmly secured to the ground or structure to prevent vandalism and shall be along the most visible portion of road frontage. The sign shall be erected in a manner so as to be visible to traffic moving in both directions and be perpendicular to the roadway, except in the case of signs at the end of cul-de-sacs. If there is more than one frontage of the parcel on an improved street or street, one sign for each frontage shall be posted; (Section amended effective 7/15/2001)
 3. The composition of the sign shall be of a durable material (wood or metal) forty (40) inches by forty (40) inches in size painted white with black lettering having a minimum height of four (4) inches with a letter stroke of one (1) inch;
 4. The signs shall advertise the date, time, and place of the public hearing;
 5. The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall file a report with the Commission that the sign was observed in place in accordance with the above;

6. An applicant who fails to display the sign shall be required to withdraw and file a new application and fee;
7. The sign shall be taken down one (1) week after the public hearing is closed;
8. Any sign not removed shall be ordered to be removed by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, who is authorized to rescind and revoke any approval for noncompliance;
9. Applications shall include a list, prepared by the applicant, of the names and mailing addresses of the owners of all parcels of land included within the application and abutting the subject property as shown on the recent records on file in the City Tax Assessor's office (or the actual owners of record if otherwise known by the applicant). If a condominium project abuts such property, the applicant shall list the owners of such units which abut such property directly and the condominium association (all owners not required). The applicant shall mail notification of said pending application to at least one (1) owner of each property not more than fifteen (15) days or less than ten (10) days before the public hearing, by transmitting the text of the public hearing notice as provided by the Commission;
10. Evidence of such mailing, in the form of United States Post Office Certificates of Mailing, shall be submitted to the Planning Office along with the above said list of property owners, not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing date. Failure to comply with any of the procedures required herein, shall be deemed valid basis for denial of the subject request; and
11. These requirements shall apply to any amendment proposed by the Commission unless the proposal would require the mailing of greater than fifty (50) certified letters or the posting of more than two (2) signs. (Section amended effective 10/1/96)

48.04 Sign Standards-

Use	Number Permitted	Maximum Area	Location	Illumination
Single Family Dwelling	1	2 sq. ft.	On a Building or Free Standing	External
Residential Unit Business Pursuit	1	2 sq. ft.	On Building or Free Standing	External
Attached Dwelling Up to 10 Units	1	6 sq. ft.	On Building or Free Standing	External
Attached Dwelling 11 Units or More	1	12 sq. ft.	On Building or Free Standing	External or DRPB Approved Internal
Institutional (Church, School, Library, Museum, Hospital, Club, Similar Uses)	1 per street frontage	24 sq. ft. per sign	On Building or Free Standing	External
Office (Commercial	1 per street	1 sq. ft. per building	On Building or Free	External or DRPB

or Professional)	frontage	length on street up to 200 sq. ft. maximum	Standing	Approved Internal
Commercial (Internal Use)	3 per street frontage	2 sq. ft. per building length on street up to 300 sq. ft. maximum	On Building or Free Standing	External or DRPB Approved Internal
Commercial (Exterior use i.e. Auto Sales, Gas Stations)	6	2 sq. ft. lot frontage up to 300 sq. ft. maximum	On Building or Free Standing	External or DRPB Approved Internal
Industrial	2 per street frontage	2 sq. ft. per building length on street up to 300 sq. ft. max.	On Building or Free Standing	External or DRPB Approved Internal

48.04.01 DELETED (effective 4/15/94)

48.05 Structural Requirements- All signs shall comply with the pertinent requirements of the Public Works Ordinance of the City of Middletown.

48.06 Non-Conforming Signs- Signs existing at the time of the enactment of this ordinance and not conforming to its provisions but which were constructed in compliance with previous regulations shall be regarded as non-conforming signs. No non-conforming sign shall be altered by increasing its overall dimensions. If damaged to the extent of one-half of its fair market value, no non-conforming sign shall be reconstructed; provided that nothing contained herein shall prevent customary maintenance, repainting or posting of such signs or structures.

48.07 Sign Prohibitions and General Requirements- The construction of any type of sign shall conform to the requirements of the State Building Code and to any other municipal regulation governing the construction of signs. In addition, the following prohibitions and general requirements shall apply in all zones:

- A. No sign shall be attached to or obstruct any window, door, stairway or other opening intended for ingress or egress or for needed light and ventilation. Nor shall any sign be attached to any tree, fence or utility pole or be permitted to be painted directly upon the wall or roof of any building.
- B. All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in a safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.
- C. Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bonafide business conducted, product sold or activity or campaign being conducted shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure or lot upon which such signs may be found within thirty (30) days of such cessation.
Upon failure to comply within the time specified, the Building Inspector is hereby authorized to order removal of such sign, within thirty (30) days of a written notification, and expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building, structure or lot to which such sign is attached.
- D. Illuminated signs, including outdoor advertising signs, shall be so designed and arranged that any external illumination is so effectively shielded that no direct external lighting fixtures shall be permitted on indirectly illuminated signs, provided such fixtures do not extend more than six (6) feet beyond the sign structure and are so attached that such illumination is directed upon the face of the sign and does not reflect directly into adjoining property of public streets.
- E. The exposed back of every outdoor advertising sign shall be effectively shielded from view from a public street by: an adjacent building; other substantial facing on the same structure of comparable size; or by the painting of such exposed back by the sign owner in a neutral color.

Unless topographically impractical, new or rebuilt outdoor advertising ground structures shall be of the cantilever type to lessen possibility of unsightly "A" frame construction.

- F. Neon lighting and tubing may be used on permitted signs, but it is not permitted to outline buildings or structures or ornamental features by use of exposed neon tubing, strings of lights or otherwise.
- G. No flashing lights, moving parts, or animated signs are permitted.
- H. Signs may be located in the vertical faces of marquees but shall not project below the lower edge of the marquee. The bottom of the marquee signs shall be no less than ten (10) feet above the sidewalk or grade at any point. No part of the sign shall project above the vertical marquee face.
- I. No wall or projecting sign shall be located in such a manner as to obstruct the light and vision of a window, nor extend higher than forty-eight (48) inches above the roof or parapet line of the building to which attached.
- J. No signs shall be attached to the roof, or painted on the roof, of any building.
- K. Free standing signs shall not exceed (10) feet in overall height above ground level. (Amended effective 1/22/2003)
- L. All signs related to premises on which the sign is located shall be within the parcels property lines.
- M. One projecting sign shall be permitted for each street frontage, for a commercial use, but the sign shall not project more than twenty-four (24) inches from the face of the building to which it is attached.
- N. Directory signs may display a horizontal panel area not to exceed 1'X 4" for each land-use and may be placed between two vertical columns. Maximum height shall be 12 feet, maximum width 8 feet.
- O. Free standing signs are not permitted in the Central Business (B-1) zone, with the exception of any design that is deemed architecturally compatible by the Design Review and Preservation Board. (Amended effective 10/31/06)
- P. Projecting signs and awnings are permitted in the Central Business (B-1) zone subject to the approval of the Sidewalk Conformance Inspector and the Preservation/Design Review Board. (Added effective 9/1/95)
- Q. All off site advertising signs are prohibited. (Added effective 1/22/03)
- R. Internally illuminated signs are prohibited, with the exception of internal illumination that is deemed architecturally compatible by the Design Review and Preservation Board, such as "halo style" or stencil-cut" signs. (Added effective 10/31/06)

ADD

SECTION 48 SIGNS

48.00 General Requirements- The following regulations and standards are established to assure compatibility of signs with surrounding land usage, to conserve property values in all zones, and to strengthen the economy of the City. All signs hereafter erected or maintained, except official traffic and street signs, shall conform with the provisions of this section. The standards in this section are minimum requirements; significant consideration should be made to meet the design guidelines.

48.01 Design Guidelines:

In general signs should be constructed of high quality materials. Signs should be designed for a specific site in order to enhance the aesthetics of the business while improving the quality of its surroundings.

- 48.01.01 Signs should be integrated into the design of the building.
- 48.01.02 Placement of signs should consider all architectural features of the buildings façade as to improve the overall appearance of a building.
- 48.01.03 Signs should be pedestrian oriented. Signs should be able to communicate its message in the simplest way possible. Pedestrians should be able to easily read a sign due to the choice of colors, fonts, textures and materials.
- 48.01.04 Illumination should be as subtle as possible and used only when necessary for lettering and logos. There should be as little excess lighting as possible, background areas should be opaque.

48.02 General Regulations:

48.02.01 Maintenance: All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in a safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.

48.02.02 Non-Existing Businesses: Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises a bonafide business conducted, product sold or activity or campaign being conducted shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure or lot upon which such signs may be found within thirty (30) days of such cessation.

Upon failure to comply within the time specified, the Building Inspector is hereby authorized to order removal of such sign, within thirty (30) days of a written notification, and expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building, structure or lot to which such sign is attached.

48.02.03 Illumination: Illuminated signs, including outdoor advertising signs, shall be so designed and arranged that any external illumination is so effectively shielded that no direct external lighting fixtures shall be permitted on indirectly illuminated signs, provided such fixtures do not extend more than six (6) feet beyond the sign structure and are so attached that such

illumination is directed upon the face of the sign and does not reflect directly into adjoining property of public streets.

48.02.04 Visibility: The exposed back of every outdoor advertising sign shall be effectively shielded from view from a public street by: an adjacent building; other substantial facing on the same structure of comparable size; or by the painting of such exposed back by the sign owner in a neutral color. Unless topographically impractical, new or rebuilt outdoor advertising ground structures shall be of the cantilever type to lessen possibility of unsightly "A" frame construction.

48.02.06 Marquee Placement: Signs may be located in the vertical faces of marquees but shall not project below the lower edge of the marquee. The bottom of the marquee signs shall be no less than ten (10) feet above the sidewalk or grade at any point. No part of the sign shall project above the vertical marquee face.

48.02.07 Wall Placement: No wall or projecting sign shall be located in such a manner as to obstruct the light and vision of a window, nor extend higher than forty-eight (48) inches above the roof or parapet line of the building to which attached.

48.02.08 Height: Free standing signs shall not exceed (10) feet in overall height above ground level.

48.02.09 On Site Advertising: All signs related to premises on which the sign is located shall be within the parcels property lines.

48.02.10 Projecting Signs: One projecting sign shall be permitted for each street frontage, for a commercial use, but the sign shall not project more than twenty-four (24) inches from the face of the building to which it is attached.

48.02.11 Directory Signs: May display a horizontal panel area not to exceed 1'x 8" for each land-use and may be placed between two vertical columns. Maximum height shall be 10 feet, maximum width 8 feet.

48.02.12 Free Standing Signs: are not permitted in the Central Business (B-1) zone, with the exception of any design that is deemed architecturally compatible by the Design Review and Preservation Board.

48.02.13 Projecting Signs and Awnings: are permitted in the Central Business (B-1) zone subject to the approval of the Sidewalk Conformance Inspector and the Preservation/Design Review Board.

48.02.14 Internally illuminated Signs: Must be reviewed and deemed architecturally compatible by the Design Review and Preservation Board, such as "halo style" or stencil-cut" signs before construction.

48.02.15 Message boards: Any changeable message center component, digital, electronic or manual, of a permanent sign is prohibited.

48.02.16 Gasoline Price Signs: Electronic or digital price signs are permitted, provided the area of this component is no greater than 35% of the freestanding sign area.

48.02.17 Architectural Features Signs: 35% of the freestanding sign area.

48.03 Requirements of specific types of signs:

Regulations for number, height and area can be found in their respective tables at the end of this document.

48.03.01 Wall Signs: The construction, placement and all other aesthetic aspects of wall signs shall meet all rules and regulations set forth in this document.

48.03.02 Content: Wall Signs shall only promote the name of the business of which it is located along with the street number

48.03.03 Projecting and Hanging Signs:

- a) Signs shall not project more than 12 inches from the façade of a building and may be no lower than 10 feet from the sidewalk or gradient
- b) Hanging signs must be securely fastened as to increase safety

48.03.04 Ground/Free Standing Signs: The construction, placement and all other aesthetic aspects of ground signs shall meet all rules and regulations set forth in this document.

48.03.04.01 Content:

- a) If a free standing sign is located on a parcel of which the primary building has multiple tenants the name of the building/plaza and street number shall be represented on the sign.
- b) If the sign is located on a single lot building the sign shall include the name of the business and street number.

48.03.04.02 Lighting: The lighting of a ground sign shall be done with concealed ground lighting as and shall be done so as to reduce any excess light and glare

48.03.04.03 Height: The maximum height of any ground or free standing sign shall be 10 feet from the sidewalk

48.03.04.04 Free Standing Sign Height Exception: A structure that is designed to resemble or appear like a tower, water tower, windmill, brick smoke stack, or other farm or industrial structure may be approved by the Design Review and Preservation Board, provided that the height of the entire structure is greater than 28 feet.

48.03.05 Directory Signs: The construction, placement and all other aesthetic aspects of directory signs shall meet all rules and regulations set forth in this document. Regulations can be found at the end of this document.

48.03.06 Content:

- a) Directory Signs shall have the name of the plaza or shopping center of which it is located and/or the street number of which it is located
- b) There shall be a maximum of eight (8) individual tenants placed on the sign
- c) Individual tenant signs placed on the directory signs shall meet the guidelines set forth in Section

48.03.07 Lighting: The lighting of a directory sign shall be done with concealed ground lighting as and shall be done so as to reduce any excess light and glare

48.03.08 Placement: Directory signs located on the same side of the street shall be located a minimum of 500 feet apart.

48.03.09 Height: The maximum height of any ground or free standing sign shall be 10 feet from the sidewalk

48.03.10 Commercial Zones

Zone	Number Permitted	Allowable Area	Illumination
B1	2 building signs	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
B2	2 building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
B3	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	1 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
NPC- Not listed on the historic inventory	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
NPC- Listed on the historic inventory	1 freestanding sign per property.	1 square foot per linear foot along storefront or maximum 75 square feet whichever is less.	Non- illuminated and External illumination.
MX- Not listed on the historic inventory	1 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	1 square foot per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
MX- Listed on	1 freestanding sign per property.	1 square foot per linear foot along storefront or maximum 75 square	Non- illuminated and External illumination.

the historic inventory		feet whichever is less.	
TD- Not listed on the historic inventory	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	1 square foot per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
TD- Listed on the historic inventory	1 freestanding sign per property.	1 square foot per linear foot along storefront or maximum 75 square feet whichever is less.	Non- illuminated and External illumination.

48.03.11 Industrial Zones

Zone	Number Permitted	Allowable Area	Illumination
I1	1 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	1 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated and External illumination.
I2	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	1 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated and External illumination.
I3	1 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
I4	1 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	1 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated and External illumination.
IRA	1 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
IT	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 200 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.

IOP	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated, External illumination, Internal Lettering and Logo illumination.
IM	2 freestanding or building signs 1 freestanding sign per property	2 square feet per linear foot along storefront or maximum 150 square feet whichever is less. Freestanding sign shall not exceed 30% of allowed area.	Non- illuminated and External illumination.

48.03.12 Residential Zones

Zone	Number Permitted	Allowable Area	Illumination
RPZ	1 building sign 1 freestanding sign per property	12 square feet	Non- illuminated or External illumination
R1	1 freestanding or building sign	12 square feet	Non- illuminated
R15	1 freestanding or building sign	12 square feet	Non- illuminated
R30	1 freestanding or building sign	12 square feet	Non- illuminated
R45	1 freestanding or building sign	12 square feet	Non- illuminated
R60	1 freestanding or building sign	12 square feet	Non- illuminated
DVD	1 freestanding or building sign	12 square feet	Non- illuminated

48.03.13 Calculations of Area and Height of Signs

- a) For a free-standing sign or sign attached to a building, the area of the sign shall be considered to include all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs and symbols, together with the background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed, but not including any supporting framework and bracing which are incidental to the display itself.
- b) For a sign painted upon or applied to a building, the area of the sign shall be considered to include all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs or symbols, together with any background of a color different from that of the building.
- c) For all signs, where a color or graphic pattern constitutes a Corporate or Brand Identification (by custom, contract or practice) as illustrated in advertising or in sign or building designs employed at multiple locations, the full extent of that background color or graphic pattern shall be calculated as part of the sign area when it is associated with any logo, lettering, or other graphic element constituting a sign.
- d) Where the sign consists of individual letters or symbols attached to or painted on a surface, wall or window, the area of the sign shall be considered to be that of the smallest rectangle or other geometric shape which encompasses all letters and symbols.

- e) Only one face of a two-sided sign shall be counted in computing the area of a sign, provided the sign faces are parallel and of equal size.
- f) The height of a sign shall be the vertical distance between the top of a sign and the mean grade of the ground adjoining that portion of the building to which the sign is attached; or that ground within ten feet of a free-standing sign.

48.04 Sign Lighting:

- a) The use of energy efficient lighting such as LED, solar or other passive and renewable techniques are recommended
- b) Signs and lighting fixtures shall be designed as to reduce glare and excess lighting
- c) The type of lighting shall be determined by the type of sign of which it is lighting
- d) Ground and Directory signs shall be lit externally

48.04.01 External Illumination

48.04.01 Light fixtures used to illuminate signs shall be placed directly above or below the sign in which it is indented to illuminate.

48.04.02 Lights shall be aimed directly at the signs and should employ hoods or deflectors as to reduce any glare on to adjacent properties.

48.04.03 External lighting of wall signs shall be done with some form of contained lighting which is affixed to the building.

48.04.04 Internal Illumination

48.04.05 Signs which are internally illuminated shall only light the lettering and logos of the sign and nothing else.

48.04.06 Backlit signs should be designed in that lettering and logos are lit against a dark opaque field

48.05 Prohibited Signs

48.05.01 Obstruction: No sign shall be attached to or obstruct any window, door, stairway or other opening intended for ingress or egress or for needed light and ventilation. Nor shall any sign be attached to any tree, fence or utility pole or be permitted to be painted directly upon the wall or roof of any building.

48.05.02 Flashing & Moving: No flashing lights, moving parts, or animated signs are permitted.

48.05.03 Roofs: No signs shall be attached to the roof, or painted on the roof, of any building.

48.05.04 Off-Site Advertising: All off site advertising signs are prohibited. (Added effective 1/22/03)

48.05.05 Traffic Conflicting Signs: Signs which because of color, shape, wording, content, design, location or illumination conflict with public safety of traffic flow

48.05.06 Emission Signs: Signs which emit a noise, smoke, or smell

48.06 Temporary Signs

The following signs shall be permitted anywhere within the City and shall not require a permit.

48.06.01 Construction Signs- Signs which identify the architects, engineers, contractors and other individuals, or firms involved with the construction, but not including any advertisement of any product, and signs announcing the character of the building enterprise for which the building is intended, during the construction period, to a maximum area of twelve (12) sq. ft. for each firm. The signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days of the beginning of the intended use of the project.

48.06.02 Real Estate Signs- Signs advertising the sale, rental or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the signs are displayed, up to a total area of twelve (12) sq. ft. Such signs shall be removed within fourteen (14) days of the sale, rental or lease.

48.06.03 Street Banners- Banners advertising a public entertainment or event, if specifically approved by the Commission, and only for locations designed by the Commission during fourteen (14) days before and seven (7) days after the event.

48.06.04 Show Windows Signs- Signs in a Window display of merchandise when incorporated with such a display. They need not be related in content with the display.

48.06.05 Public Hearing Notice- Notice of any public hearing for any reason authorized by this code shall be given as required by the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. Additionally, the applicant shall cause to be posted a sign or signs and written notice to be given notifying the public of a public hearing related to an application for all such hearings. The signs and the written notice shall be the responsibility of the applicant and posted subject to the following conditions:

- a. The sign shall be posted seven (7) calendar days prior to the day of the public hearing, Eight (8) days if the seventh day is a holiday) and shall not be removed by the applicant until the hearing is closed;
- b. The sign shall be firmly secured to the ground or structure to prevent vandalism and shall be along the most visible portion of road frontage. The sign shall be erected in a manner so as to be visible to traffic moving in both directions and be perpendicular to the roadway, except in the case of signs at the end of cul-de-sacs. If there is more than one frontage of the parcel on an improved street or street, one sign for each frontage shall be posted; (Section amended effective 7/15/2001)
- c. The composition of the sign shall be of a durable material (wood or metal) forty (40) inches by forty (40) inches in size painted white with black lettering having a minimum height of four (4) inches with a letter stroke of one (1) inch;
- d. The signs shall advertise the date, time, and place of the public hearing;
- e. The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall file a report with the Commission that the sign was observed in place in accordance with the above;

- f. An applicant who fails to display the sign shall be required to withdraw and file a new application and fee;
- g. The sign shall be taken down one (1) week after the public hearing is closed;
- h. Any sign not removed shall be ordered to be removed by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, who is authorized to rescind and revoke any approval for noncompliance;
- i. Applications shall include a list, prepared by the applicant, of the names and mailing addresses of the owners of all parcels of land included within the application and abutting the subject property as shown on the recent records on file in the City Tax Assessor's office (or the actual owners of record if otherwise known by the applicant). If a condominium project abuts such property, the applicant shall list the owners of such units which abut such property directly and the condominium association (all owners not required). The applicant shall mail notification of said pending application to at least one (1) owner of each property not more than fifteen (15) days or less than ten (10) days before the public hearing, by transmitting the text of the public hearing notice as provided by the Commission;
- j. Evidence of such mailing, in the form of United States Post Office Certificates of Mailing, shall be submitted to the Planning Office along with the above said list of property owners, not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing date. Failure to comply with any of the procedures required herein, shall be deemed valid basis for denial of the subject request; and
- k. These requirements shall apply to any amendment proposed by the Commission unless the proposal would require the mailing of greater than fifty (50) certified letters or the posting of more than two (2) signs. (Section amended effective 10/1/96)

48.07 Exempt Signs

48.07.01 Public Signs- Signs of a non-commercial nature and in the public interest erected by, or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his public duty, such as safety signs, danger signs, trespassing signs, traffic signs, memorial plaques, signs of historical interest and the like.

48.07.02 Institutional Signs- Signs setting forth the name or any simple announcement for any public charitable, educational or religious institution located entirely within the premises of that institution, up to an area of twenty-four (24) sq. ft. Such signs may be illuminated in accordance with the regulations contained hereinafter. If building mounted, these signs shall be flat wall signs and shall not project above the roof line. If ground mounted, the top shall be no more than six (6) feet above ground level.

48.07.03 Integral Signs- Names of buildings, dates or erection, monumental citations, commemorative tablets and the like when carved into stone, concrete or similar material or made of bronze, aluminum, or other permanent type construction and made an integral part of the structure.

48.07.04 Private Traffic Direction Signs- Signs directing traffic movement onto a premise or within a premise, not exceeding three (3) sq. ft. in area for each sign. Illumination of these signs shall be permitted in accordance with the regulations contained hereinafter. Horizontal directional signs on and flush with paved areas are exempt from these standards.

48.07.05 Small Signs- Signs not exceeding two (2) sq. ft. in area, attached flat against the building, stationary and not illuminated, announcing only the same name and occupation of building tenant.

48.07.06 Rental Signs- Signs on the premises announcing rooms for rent, table board, apartment or house for rent and not exceeding four (4) sq. ft. in area.

48.07.07 Vehicle Signs- Signs on vehicles of any kind, provided the sign is painted or attached directly to the body of the original vehicle and does not project or extend beyond the original manufactured body proper of the vehicle.