

	<b>IDENTIFICATION SIGNS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TEST SITES</b>		<i>Issued: JUL 2016</i>
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<b>RECOMMENDED PRACTICES</b>	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS	

## General

Alberta's highways often pass through rural areas, where both agricultural and environmental test sites can exist close to the highway right-of-way.

An agricultural test site involves the cultivation or testing of new products related to seeds, plants or trees. Typically, these test sites are farm fields that have been designated for experimentation by a farm owner or operator.

Environmental test sites are inclusive of all other research sites that are related to nature, including soil, contaminants or water systems.

The purpose of Identification signs for agricultural and environmental test sites is to provide site owners or any other regular user of the site with the means of identifying the locations of the new products being cultivated and tested.

The signs can be placed in the highway development control zone upon receipt of a permit from Alberta Transportation. The highway development control zone is defined under Regulation 326/2009 of the Highways Development and Protection Act to be within 300 metres of the highway right-of-way boundary or within 800 metres of the centre point of an intersection of the highway with another public road for freeways, multi-lane

provincial highways and major provincial highways. For minor provincial highways, Alberta Transportation is only responsible for signs posted within the highway right of way. The Roadside Management Classification Map identifies the different highway classes and can be found on the Alberta Transportation website.

## Standard

Identification signs are custom designed signs consisting of one panel containing a text message and a support structure.

Two types of signs are allowed. Location identifier signs are used to establish the location of the test field or site. Product identifier signs are used to identify specific products in test sites where multiple products are being tested in the same field.

Location identifier signs are allowed to display a simple message containing the following:

- the name of the farm or the name of the operating agency
- the name, identification number or any other identification symbol of the product(s) being tested or researched at the site.

Product identifier signs should only contain the identification name, number or symbol of the specific product.

Advertising products and services or the display of slogans or other promotional information about a product or farm will not be allowed on the identification sign.

Preferably, the sign should be constructed using light materials such as wood or aluminium sheeting.

The maximum size of a location identifier sign is 1 square metre. The maximum size of a product identifier sign is 0.5 square metres.

**Application Process**

Organizations wishing to erect a sign (or make sign information changes) in the highway development control zone must complete a sign application, available at the following website, and submit it to the nearest Alberta Transportation district office:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/2626.htm>

A map of the district offices as well as their contact information is available at the following website:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/4450.htm>

The permit application must include an image of the sign, sign location(s), and sign specifications including the sign size, colour, wording and text size. The sign application should also identify the site as either agricultural or environmental and demonstrate that the sign is required for proper operation of the test site.

Sign construction or changes may not proceed until a permit has been issued by Alberta Transportation.

Signs with any of the following characteristics will not be permitted:

- Displays an intermittent, flashing or rotating light or lights;
- Flood lighting in such a manner as to cause interference to the motoring public;
- Yard lights, area lighting or other lights that, in the opinion of the Operations Manager, are excessively distracting to the public or create a traffic hazard;
- Has moving or rotating parts; or
- Bears a legend giving a command such as “stop, stop ahead, turn, caution,” etc., or any legend that in any way imitates a standard or commonly used traffic signal device or sign.

**Installation and Maintenance**

The organization in charge of the test site is responsible for all costs and activities associated with their Identification sign including fabrication, installation, maintenance and future replacement of the sign and sign structure.

**References to Standards**

<i>Highways Development and Protection Act</i>	Regulation 326/2009
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