


Government of Alberta  Transportation	ON-PREMISE SIGNS FOR SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY HALLS		<i>Issued: JULY 2010</i>
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RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	MISCELLANEOUS	
	SUB-SECTION	COMMUNITY INFORMATION	

General

Some schools, churches and community halls may be located on land parcels directly adjacent to a provincial highway. These community facilities are entitled to signs on-premise to identify the facility and display pertinent messages related to the facility.

Standard

One standard On-Premise identification sign shall be permitted on each parcel of land. The sign content is limited to the name of the facility on that parcel, facility contact information (phone number, website, email, etc.), and a message panel/area to display messages related to the facility (such as upcoming events, parent reminders, announcements, etc.).

If an electronic changeable message sign is used, the messages must be displayed in a static fashion such that a driver driving at the posted speed limit can only see one static message during the drive by. An electronic changeable message sign will be restricted to 2 square metres or smaller. Electronic changeable message sign may also be used as a component of the overall on-premise sign for the parcel of land where the facility is located.

Message content may be changed as desired by the facility owner (no requirement to advise the department prior to changing). However, message content is limited to messages pertinent to the facility, and must not include advertising/promotion of a separate business, organization, or special interest group.

Unless otherwise specified, the maximum sign size permitted is 10 square metres and the sign shall be placed no closer than 10 metres from the edge of the highway right-of-way. The sign shall be a maximum of 5 metres in length (longest dimension).

When more than one facility is located on one parcel, the identification signs shall be erected on a common mounting and the total area of the sign shall not exceed 10 square metres.

Where an On-Premise identification sign is proposed near an interchange and may be difficult to see, the maximum allowable sign surface area is 15 square metres.

The letter size on each sign permitted shall be a minimum of 15 centimetres in height. The use of standard lettering styles is encouraged for improved legibility.

The use of reflectorized sign materials is recommended in order to provide 24 hour legibility.

Facilities on parcels of land that are located along service roads are permitted one On-Premise identification sign as outlined above. The sign shall be located on the facility property and set back a minimum distance of 10 metres from the service road right-of-way or a minimum of 40 metres from the highway right-of-way.

Mandatory

Facility owners wishing to erect a sign (or make sign changes) within 300 metres of the right-of-way boundary of a major highway outside of an urban centre in Alberta, or within 800 metres of the centre point of an intersection of the major highway with another public road, must complete a sign application, available at the following website and submit it to the nearest Alberta Transportation district office (a listing is available at the website below):

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType329/Production/distaddress.pdf>

Sign construction or changes may not proceed until a permit has been issued by Alberta Transportation, subject to the provisions of the Highways Development and Protection Act, Chapter H-8.5 2004, amendments thereto, and Highways Development and Protection Regulation (326/2009) and amendments thereto.

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

- Displays an intermittent flashing, rotating or moving light;
- 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.

All signs must be fabricated professionally using conventional exterior sign materials.

The development control zones along minor highways within rural municipalities and along major highways within large urban centres are not governed by Alberta Transportation. Facility owners wishing to erect on premise signs within these areas must contact their local municipality for guidance.

Installation and Maintenance

Each facility owner operating adjacent to the highway is responsible for all costs and activities associated with their On-Premise identification sign, including fabrication, installation, future replacement of the sign and sign structure, and maintenance.

The department monitors signs within the highway environment to ensure the safety of motorists and provision of an aesthetically pleasant environment.

Excessive or Unsightly Signs

The department, through the legislation of the Highways Development and Protection Act and Regulations, may take the following actions:

- Request the sign owner remove obsolete signs
- Remove or relocate signs which prevent a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view of the roadway.

References to Standards

<i>Highways Development and Protection Act</i>	Chapter H-8.5
<i>Highways Development and Protection Regulation</i>	326/2009