



Attn: Mayor and Public Works Director

HIGHWAY PRODUCT GOVERNMENT SIGN BULLETIN

New Sign Reflectivity, Durability and Size

Nighttime Visibility

One of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) primary missions is to improve safety on the nation's roadways.

Approximately 42,000 people have been killed on American roads during each of the past eight years. While only one-quarter of all travel occurs at night, about half of the traffic fatalities occur during nighttime hours. The FHWA has adopted new traffic sign reflectivity requirements. Nighttime visibility of traffic control devices is becoming increasingly important as our population ages. By the year 2020, about one-fifth of the U.S. population will be 65 years of age or older. In general, older individuals have declining vision and slower reaction times. Signs that are easier to see and read at night can help older drivers retain their freedom of mobility and remain independent.

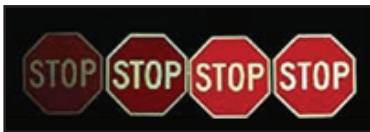


non-compliant



compliant

New National Requirements



Degradation of reflective signs

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is the national standard for all traffic control devices on any street or highway open to public travel. The MUTCD requires signs to be either illuminated or made with retroreflective sheeting materials. Street sign panels will be increased to 8" high with 6" letters with

minimum of 120 candle power of retroreflectivity. Most signs in the U.S. are made with retro-reflective sheeting materials, which degrade over time and therefore have a limited life. Until now, there has been little information available to determine when signs need to be replaced based on reflectivity. Revision number two of the 2003 Edition of the MUTCD introduces new language that establish minimum retroreflectivity levels to be maintained for traffic signs. See the Table of Reflectivity on our literature or on the website at www.americanfibertech.com.

10 Year Durability and Minimum 120 candle power Reflectivity

ASTM D4956 describes the types of retroreflective sheeting materials that can be used on traffic signs. The new MUTCD minimum retroreflectivity requirements refer to sheeting types as defined in ASTM D4956. Sheeting types that can be used according to the new requirements are as follows (current as of March 2008): All sheeting materials meeting 120 candle power may be used for all signs. Even though a particular type of sheeting might initially meet the minimum retroreflectivity levels when new, it might quickly degrade to below the minimum levels.

Agencies have until January 2012 to establish and implement a sign assessment or management method to maintain minimum levels of sign retroreflectivity.



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New FHWA Regulations

Signs that save time and can help save lives

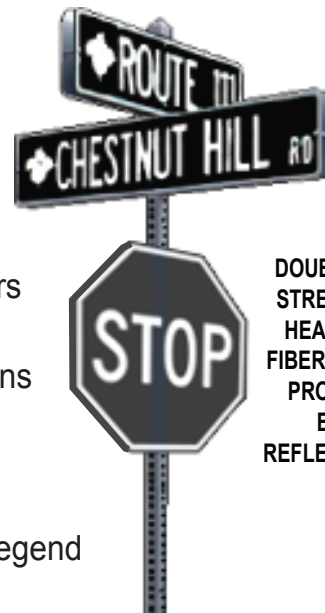
Proper street signage is important to every driver, the difference is that when an ordinary driver misses a turn, the delay is an inconvenience. But when an emergency vehicle is trying to find an address. losing time can mean losing life. Street name signs must be easily seen day or night, since rescue vehicles are out at all hours. And they must be visible far in advance, to guide drivers travelling at top speeds. That's why street signs must be made with highly reflective sheeting, for outstanding brightness. Signs must also be designed for excellent visibility at indirect angles, to be seen when an emergency vehicle is making a sharp turn.



Setting new standards for safety

In response to the available human factors studies, the following changes have been carefully evaluated by the FHWA and the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) to improve the legibility and visibility of street name signs:

- 8" or 9" Street sign blanks with lettering 6" high in capital letters and 4.5" lower case letters.
- Supplementary lettering to indicate the type of street or sections of city may be smaller lettering at least 3" high. Conventional abbreviations may be used except for the street name itself.
- The street name sign shall be reflectorized with minimum 120 candle power and 10 year reflective sheeting durability. The legend and background shall be of contrasting colors.



DOUBLE MOUNTING STREET SIGNS AND HEAVY DUTY .180 FIBERGLASS PANELS PROTECTS YOUR EXPENSIVE REFLECTIVE SIGNAGE

Saving budget dollars

- Budget issues can be resolved by including street name sign funding in 9-1-1 programs.
- Double Mounting adds considerable strength to street signs and eliminates the costs of caps and cross pieces.
- 12 year durable Government Grade or 10 year High Intensity reflective sheetings. Meet the new FHWA specs and are more than two times brighter than Engineer Grade sheeting.

For more information on Sign Panel posts and reflective sheetings, contact us:



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