

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

CALIFORNIA – State Specific Signs

California ADA Parking Signs

Overview:

All states must comply with The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It is a federal wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADAAG) stipulates design standards for accessible parking spaces. Section 502.6 of ADAAG and The Department of Transportation Standard for Highway Signs (MUTCD) both address design standards for the required signs.

Resources:

2010 ADAAG Standards: (Free)

http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

MUTCD Standard for Highway Signs: (Free)

https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/SHSe/shs_2004_2012_sup.pdf

DSA Access Compliance Reference Manual: (Free)

http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/pubs/2016CBC_Advisory_Manual.pdf

Design of Parking Signs:

- Accessible parking spaces must have a sign that includes the international symbol of accessibility and state “RESERVED PARKING.” Spaces designed for van parking must also have a sign stating “VAN ACCESSIBLE.” (ADAAG 502.6), (MUTCD R7-8)
- The sign should be 12”W x 18”H with green lettering and border on a white background. The symbol of accessibility should be 4”H and be white on a blue background. The symbol is a depiction of a person in a wheel chair. (MUTCD R7-8), (ADAAG 703.7.2.1)
- If required, the van accessible sign should be 12”W x 6”H and have green lettering and border on a white background or white lettering and border on a blue background. (MUTCD R7-8a, R&-8b)
- Signs should be mounted at least 60 inches above the parking surface so as to not be obstructed by any parked vehicles.
- Signs should be constructed to withstand the elements. An aluminum substrate with a reflective surface using UV stable ink is recommended. An anti-graffiti laminate surface might also be considered.
- Of note: Federal accessibility signs avoid the use of the text “handicapped” or “disabled” as a result of the Department of Justice’s efforts to make use of up-to-date accepted terminology and avoid stereotyping of individuals. (28CFR35.104)
- California requires a slightly different sign than the ADAAG sign. The state sign displays the international symbol of accessibility in white on a blue background with no additional text required. It also should be mounted 80” rather than 60” from the pavement when located within a circulation path (CBC 11B-502.6)
- An additional sign is to be posted at each entrance to an off-street parking facility stating, “Unauthorized vehicles parked in designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed away at the owner’s expense. Towed vehicles may be reclaimed at _____ or by telephoning _____.”

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- Blank spaces are to be filled in with appropriate information as a permanent part of the sign. (CA DOT R100B – requires this sign at every parking facility entrance sign at a minimum of 24” x 24”, while the CBC 11B-502.8 parking space sign shall at a minimum size of 17” x 22”, and both signs have minimum 1” high letters) We believe that the R110B 24” x 24” sign also meets the requirements of CBC 11B-502.8, but always check with local inspectors to verify their interpretation.
- A supplemental sign stating: “Special placard or license plate required,” may be posted at the accessible parking space, but it is not required.

California No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of California prohibits smoking in state owned vehicles, public places and places of employment and within 20 feet of a main entrance, exit, or operable window. There are a number of exemptions to the law permitting smoking in certain areas if properly designated. The Smoking Ordinance of the California Codes (Labor Code 6404.5) became law on 1/1/1998 and requires posting of signs enforcing the law at various locations. On 1/1/2004 the California Government Code (CGC) enhanced the law by adding the “within 20 feet,” and “state owned vehicles” prohibitions.

Numerous cities in the state have enacted their own no smoking ordinances that are more restrictive than the state law. They eliminate some of the state exemptions as well as prohibit smoking in certain outdoor areas. The state has never challenged the legality of these local ordinances in court.

Resources:

- California Regulation:** https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=LAB§ionNum=6404.5
(Free)
- Government Code Sections:** (Free) <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/cacode/GOV/1/1/d7/32>
- No-Smoke.org/California:** <https://no-smoke.org/tag/california/>
(Free)
- Protectlocalcontrol.org:** <http://www.protectlocalcontrol.org/state.php?sid=5>
(Free)

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- Where smoking is prohibited throughout a building, the owner must display at each entrance a sign stating “NO SMOKING.” (6405.c.1.A)
- Where smoking is permitted in designated areas of a building, the owner must display a sign stating “SMOKING IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS.” (6405.c.1.B)
- Though currently not required by law, no smoking signs commonly include the additional language “WITHIN 20 FEET OF MAIN ENTRANCES, EXITS, AND OPERABLE WINDOWS.” (CGC7596-7598)

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California Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) and the California Health & Safety Code (CHSC) stipulate rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code became effective on 10/1/1981 and requires the posting of signs at public swimming pools and spas. Effective 9/1/2012, The California Building Code (CBC) Title 24 revised public pool regulations that require a number of additional signs at public swimming pools, spas, and wave pools.

Resources:

- California Health & Safety Code:** (Free) <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=HSC>
- California Dept. of Public Health:** (Free) <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/RerecreationalHealth/California-Swimming-Pool-Requirements.aspx>
- CBC, Title 24 Revised Regs:** (Free) <https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/chapter/content/1855/>
- NSP Foundation:** (Free) http://nspf.org/en/Resources/News_StateCodes.aspx

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

As of 9/1/2019 the State of California requires a number of signs that must be posted at pools, spas, and wave pools. See the CBC revised regulation for more specific posting and design information. (3120B.2-16)

Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

The State of California Penal Code allows residents of the state to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit to do so by the local county or municipal law enforcement official in which they reside. An applicant for a permit must be of good moral character, complete a training course, and demonstrate good cause for the need to carry a concealed firearm. There are certain places and events such as government buildings, polling places, gun shows, etc. where CCW is forbidden even with a permit. California does not honor the CCW permits of any other state.

Resources:

- California Penal Code:** (Free) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PEN§ionNum=26150
(see 26150-26225)
- California Bureau of Firearms:** (Free) <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms>
- Handgunlaw.com/California:** (Free) <http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/california.pdf>

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Design of Concealed Weapons Signs:

- Some states that allow the carrying of concealed weapons, with or without a required permit, have “opt out” laws that allow a private business to voluntarily create a “weapons free” zone by posting a “no concealed weapons allowed” sign on their premises. California law does not allow a business to create a “weapons free” zone by posting a sign, nor does it specifically prohibit the posting of such signs at business or facilities where CCW is forbidden.
- “No Weapons Signs” only have the force of the law when posted at places and events where the state regulations forbid CCW. (PC 27330, 171c(a)(1), 171b(b)(2)(B), 17510, 25300(a) (Election code 18544(a))

Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

California has state wide bans pertaining to voice and text messaging with hand held communication devices while driving. These bans were put into effect on 1/1/2008 and are detailed in the California Vehicle Code. (VC)

Resources:

California Regulation: (Free)

[Bill Text - AB-1785 Vehicles: use of wireless electronic devices.](#)

State Law Updater: (Free)

<http://www.ihs.org/laws/cellphonelaws.aspx>

Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free)

<http://handsfreeinfo.com/california-cell-phone-laws-legislation/>

Design of Cell Phone Signs:

- All drivers are prohibited from using hand-held wireless telephones while driving a motor vehicle. Adults are permitted to use hands-free devices. (VC 23123.5)
- Drivers under 18 years are prohibited from using both hand-held and hands-free wireless telephones while driving a motor vehicle. (VC 23124)
- School and transit bus drivers are prohibited from using both hand-held and hands-free wireless telephones while driving unless for emergency purposes. (VC 23124) (VC 23125)
- An efficient way to remind both commercial and private drivers of cell phone bans is to apply a “No Cell Phone Use While Driving” safety label or window decal to cars, taxi cabs, trucks, and buses.
- As of January 1, 2017, it is illegal to hold or operate a mobile device for any reason while behind the wheel.
- As of 9/1/2019 we are not aware of any mandatory “no cell phone” sign postings required in California.
- Of note: Because cell phones can be distractive by nature, it is common to see signs regulating cell phone use in public buildings such as theaters, airports, courtrooms, hospitals, buses, schools and school traffic zones.

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Baby Surrender Signs

Overview:

Since the first baby surrender (safe-haven) law was enacted in Texas in 1999, all U.S. states, as well as the District of Columbia, have passed safe-haven legislation. The laws allow an unharmed infant to be relinquished to the proper authorities. The California law became effective on 1/1/2006 and is administered by the California Health and Safety Code, Section 1255.7.

Resources:

- California Regulation:** (Free) http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/California_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf
- CDSS Fast Facts:** (Free) <http://www.babysafe.ca.gov/>
- NSH Alliance:** (Free) <https://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/>

Design of Baby Surrender Signs

- California has adopted provisions for the relinquishing of a new born infant (3 days old or less) by a parent who no longer wishes to have custody of the child. The infant may be relinquished at any hospital, or emergency medical facility, or a police station that has been approved by the local county. These facilities must post a sign with a logo adopted by the State Department of Social Services on the exterior of the facility indicating they are an approved facility for baby surrender. (1255.7)
- The state approved logo is a blue regular pentagon inscribed with a baby in arm symbol, on a white background. (CDSS Fast Facts)

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