

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA – State Specific Signs

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

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)
- As of 9/1/2019 we are not aware of any additional ADA parking sign requirements in the District of Columbia other than those specified by the federal government in the 2010 ADAAG.

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District of Columbia No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The District of Columbia prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to designated hotel/motel rooms, tobacco stores, and cigar bars. The Smoke Free Workplace Law went into effect on 4/4/2006 and is administered by the District of Columbia Department of Health.

Resources:

Smoke Free Workplace Law: (Free)

<https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/smoke-free-and-tobacco-laws>

Department of Health Website: (Free)

www.doh.dc.gov/node/121742

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- The owner or other person in control of a public place or workplace where smoking is prohibited must post, at each entrance, a “No Smoking” sign or the international no smoking symbol, consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it with specific language and maximum fine for violations. (Code of District of Columbia § 7-1704)
- Though not required by the law, it is common to post a “Smoking Permitted” sign at facilities and areas where smoking is permitted.

District of Columbia Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

The D.C. Health Regulation and Licensing Administration stipulate the rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code requires the posting of signs at public swimming pools and spas.

Resources:

District of Columbia Regulation: (Free)

https://dchealth.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/2017-%2025C%20DCMR-DC%20Swimming%20Pool%2C%20Spa%20and%20Saunas_0.pdf

NSP Foundation: (Free)

http://nspf.org/en/Resources/News_StateCodes.aspx

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

Below are the required District of Columbia swimming pool and spa signs. See the D.C. regulation for more specific posting and design information.

- A sign stating various pool rules.
- A sign stating various spa rules.
- A sign stating “NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY. SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK” where lifeguards are not provided. The sign must also state “NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 SHALL USE THE SWIMMING POOL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION. ADULTS SHOULD NOT SWIM ALONE” (6403.5)

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Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

The District of Columbia now allows a person to carry a concealed weapon as long as they meet the application requirements. (24 DCMR Sec. 2332.1)

Resources:

District of Columbia Regulation: (Free)

<https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=24-23>

Handgunlaw.com/D.C.: (Free)

<http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/dc.pdf>

Design of Concealed Weapons Signs:

- The District of Columbia does allow a private business to display a sign stating that carrying of firearms is prohibited on their private property providing certain requirements are met, including the sign being at least eight (8) inches by ten (10) inches in size and having writing in contrasting ink not less than thirty-six (36) inch point type. (24 DCMR Sec. 2346)

Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

The District of Columbia bans the use of hand-held cell phones for both voice and text communications by all drivers of motorized vehicles. Drivers with learner's permits and school bus drivers may not use cell phones of any type while driving. The Distracted Driving Safety Act became effective on 7/1/2004.

Resources:

District of Columbia Regulation: (Free)

www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/bystate/dc.html

Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free)

<http://handsfreeinfo.com/district-of-columbia-cell-phone-laws-bills>

Design of Cell Phone Signs:

- As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any mandatory “no cell phone” sign postings required in the District of Columbia.

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(Cell Phone Signs Continued)

- 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.
- Of note: Because cell phones can be distracting 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.

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.

Resources:

District of Columbia Regulation: (Free) http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/DC_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf

NSH Alliance: (Free) <https://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/>

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- The District of Columbia allows for the relinquishing of a new born infant (14 days old or less) by a parent who no longer wishes to have custody of the child. The Newborn Safe Haven Act of 2009 states an infant may be relinquished at any hospital, EMS, fire station, or law enforcement agency as defined by the statute. (NSFA Sec.3)
- Every facility authorized to accept a surrendered infant must post a sign stating that a newborn may be surrendered at the facility in accordance with the act. (NSFA Sec.4)

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