

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

VERMONT – 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 Vermont other than those specified by the federal government in the 2010 ADAAG.

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Vermont No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of Vermont prohibits smoking in indoor public places, including restaurants and bars. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to the Vermont Veterans Home. The state law became law on 9/1/2005. The law is administered by the Vermont Department of Health. (37-1742)

Resources:

Vermont No Smoking Regulation: (Free) <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/037>

Department of Health Website: (Free) http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/tobacco/restrictions_law.aspx

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- Though the state law does not require the posting of signs at facilities where smoking is prohibited, it is common to post a “No Smoking” sign which may also contain 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.

Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

The Vermont Health Regulations currently do not list any required signs for pools, spas, hot tubs or related sources.

Resources:

Vermont Regulation: (Free) <http://www.healthvermont.gov/about-us/laws-regulations/rules-and-regulations#p>

NSP Foundation: (Free) http://nspf.org/en/Resources/News_StateCodes.aspx

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

There are currently no signs required by Vermont law.

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Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

The State of Vermont does not issue permits for the carrying of concealed weapons. Anyone in Vermont who can legally own a firearm may carry it concealed without a permit of any kind. There are certain places such as schools, court houses, etc. where CCW is forbidden. (13-4004)

Resources:

Vermont Regulation: (Free) <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/13/085/04004>
Handgunlaw.com/Vermont: (Free) <http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/vermont.pdf>

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. Vermont law does allow a business to create a “weapons free” zone by posting a sign under 13 V.S.A. 3705 – Unlawful Trespass.

Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

The State of Vermont bans the use of hand-held cell phones for texting communications by all drivers of motorized vehicles. Drivers under the age of 18 may not use wireless devices for any type of communication while driving. The law, 23 V.S.A. § 1099, became effective on 6/1/2010.

Resources:

Vermont Regulation: (Free) <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/Acts/ACT150.pdf>
Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free) <http://handsfreeinfo.com/vermont-cell-phone-laws-legislation>

Design of Cell Phone Signs:

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

Resources:

Vermont Regulation: (Free) http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/Vermont_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf

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

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- Vermont allows for the relinquishing of a new born infant (30 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, police station, fire station, adoption agency, or worship center as defined by the Act. As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any requirement in the law for the posting of signs. (Tit. 13, Sec.1303)

Vermont Truss Identification Signs

Overview:

Utilization of light frame roof and floor truss systems in buildings is widely accepted because it offers construction savings in material and labor. But their design can also pose a serious threat of collapse to firefighters during an emergency. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that building owners post construction information, including the presence of roof and floor trusses, outside all buildings.

The Vermont Department of Public Health, Division of Fire Safety addresses the fire safety issues related to truss construction. This state law requires owners of commercial or industrial buildings to post a sign on the exterior of the building indicating light-frame truss-type construction. The sign assists firefighters in modifying their tactics when fighting a fire in a building with this type of construction.

Resources:

Vermont Regulation: (Free) http://firesafety.vermont.gov/sites/firesafety/files/files/rules/dfs_rules_firecode2015_current.pdf

NIOSH Truss System Alert: (Free) <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-132/pdfs/2005-132.pdf>

NFPA 1 Truss Construction Standard: (\$\$\$) http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/category.asp?category_name=Codes+and+Standards&Page=1&src=catalog&order_src=B726&gclid=CMe3pL6QybACFbEBQAod5RiGVw

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(Truss Identification Signs Continued)

Design of Truss Identification Signs:

- Vermont statute requires that commercial, industrial, and multiunit residential structures that utilize light frame truss-type construction post a sign at the main entrance door with the approved symbol.
- The sign is based on the NFPA1-10.13.4 truss sign standard which specifies the sign as an isosceles triangle of specific size and of a bright and reflective color within which is displayed the proper identification label as follows:
 - Structures with roof system trusses shall post the symbol with the letter “R.”
 - Structures with floor system trusses shall post the symbol with the letter “F.”
 - Structures with both roof and floor system trusses shall post the symbol with the letters “FR.”
- The proper symbol should be placed to the left of the main entrance door, at the location of the remote fire alarm annunciation panel, or at the fire department connection for the fire sprinkler system; at a height of 4 feet above grade. (NFPA1-10.13.4)

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