

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

IOWA – 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

Iowa ADA Parking Regulations: (Free)

http://www.dps.state.ia.us/regassist/iowaCode_321L.shtml

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 Iowa other than those specified by the federal government in the 2010 ADAAG.

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Iowa No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of Iowa prohibits smoking in public places including bars, restaurants, and public vehicles. Smoking is also prohibited in certain outdoor areas connected with schools, stadiums, restaurants, public transit, and state parks. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to hotel/motel rooms, retail tobacco shops, and private clubs. The Iowa Smokefree Air Act (ISAA) became law on 1/1/2008 and is administered by the Department of Public Health. (Iowa Code 142D)

Resources:

Iowa Smokefree Air Act: (Free)

<https://smokefreeair.iowa.gov/order-signage>

Iowa ISAA Website: (Free)

<https://abd.iowa.gov/tobacco/smokefree-air-act>

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- The state statute defines a public place as an enclosed area to which the public has access. The owner or other person in control of a public place, public vehicle or outdoor area where smoking is prohibited must post a sign at all entrances stating “No Smoking” 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. The sign must also state the telephone number for reporting complaints and the website of The Department of Public Health. Samples of the required sign are viewable at the ISAA website. (142D.6)
- Owners of facilities that are exempt from the smoking ban may, at their discretion, forbid smoking in their establishment by posting a “No Smoking” sign. (142D.5)

Iowa Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

Rule 641 of the Iowa Department of Public Health stipulates the rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code became effective on 5/4/2005 and requires the posting of signs at public swimming pools and spas.

Resources:

Iowa Regulation: (Free)

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/rule/12-09-2015.641.15.4.pdf>

NSP Foundation: (Free)

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

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Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

Below are the required Iowa swimming pool and spa signs. See the Iowa regulation for more specific posting and design information.

- A sign stating pool rules. (641-15.4(6) b.)
- A “No Lifeguard” sign where lifeguards are not provided. The sign must also state that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. (641-15.4(6) d.)
- A sign stating water slide rules. (641-15.4(6) e.)

Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

The Iowa Department of Public Safety in chapter 724 of the Iowa Code allows residents of the state to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit granted by the local city or county in which they reside. Among the requirements for issuing a permit are; an applicant must be at least 18 years old, free from a conviction of a felony, does not have a documented addiction to alcohol, has passed a background check, and has completed a firearm training program. There are certain places such as, schools, casinos, universities, etc. where CCW is forbidden even with a permit. (727.4 & 724.4A)

Resources:

Iowa Regulation: (Free) <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/ACO/IC/LINC/Chapter.724.p>

Handgunlaw.com/Iowa: (Free) <http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/iowa.pdf>

Design of Concealed Weapons Signs:

- Some states that allow CCW, with or without a required permit, have “opt out” laws that empower a private business to voluntarily create a “weapons free” zone by posting a “no concealed weapons allowed” sign on their premises. Iowa law does not empower a business to create a “weapons free” zone by posting a sign, nor does it explicitly forbid the posting of such signs at businesses or facilities where CCW is forbidden.

Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

The State of Iowa bans the use of hand-held cell phones for texting communications by all drivers of motorized vehicles. Novice drivers are also banned from using hand-held cell phones for voice communication. The law, HB2456, was revised as of July 1, 2017 to also ban use of social media and general internet browsing while driving, as well as increased fines and penalties. (Senate File 234)

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(Cell Phone Signs Continued)

Resources:

Iowa Regulation: (Free)

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code//321.276.pdf>

Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free)

<http://handsfreeinfo.com/iowa-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 Iowa.
- 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.

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:

Iowa Regulation: (Free)

http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/iowa_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf

NSH Alliance: (Free)

<http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/>

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- Iowa 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 Newborn Safe Haven Act states infant may be relinquished at any institutional health facility. As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any requirement in the law for the posting of signs. (233.2)

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