

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

MARYLAND – 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 Maryland other than those specified by the federal government in the 2010 ADAAG.

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Maryland No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of Maryland prohibits smoking in public transportation vehicles, public places, and workplaces including bars and restaurants. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to designated hotel/motel rooms, retail tobacco shops, and tobacco research facilities. The Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act became law on 2/1/2008 and is administered by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (24-504) (24-505)

Resources:

Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act: (Free) http://mlis.state.md.us/2007RS/chapters_noln/Ch_502_hb03_59E.pdf

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, vehicle, or workplace where smoking is prohibited must post a sign stating that smoking is not permitted. It is common for the sign to 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. (24-503)
- Facilities exempt from the smoking ban, as well as designated smoking areas allowed by the statute, must display a sign stating “Smoking Permitted In This Room.” (24-506)

Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene stipulates the rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code became effective in 1997. (10.17.01.00)

Resources:

Maryland Regulation: (Free) https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/CHS/Shared%20Documents/CHS/dcs_fecal_policy_package.pdf

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

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

- As of 9/1/2019 Maryland does not have any statewide requirements for the posting of signs at public pools or spas. Consult your county or municipality for information on any required swimming pool signs. (nspf.org)

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Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

The State of Maryland allows its residents to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit granted by the Maryland State Police. Among the requirements for issuing a permit are; an applicant must be at least 18 years old, has not been convicted of a felony, does not suffer from a mental illness, and does not have an addiction to a controlled substance. There are certain places such as schools, public demonstrations, government buildings, state parks, etc. where CCW is forbidden even with a permit. Maryland does not honor the CCW permits of any other states.

Resources:

Maryland Regulation: (Free)	https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Document%20Downloads/MDPublicSafetyArticle5-306.pdf
Handgunlaw.com/Maryland: (Free)	http://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2005/gps/5-306.html

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. Maryland 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 Maryland bans the use of hand-held cell phones for both texting and voice communications by all drivers of motorized vehicles. Drivers under the age of 18 may not use wireless devices of any type while driving. The law, 21-1124.1-2, became effective on 10/1/2011.

Resources:

Maryland Regulation: (Free)	http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?tab=subject3&ys=2011rs%2fbillfile%2fsb0424.htm
Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free)	http://handsfreeinfo.com/maryland-cell-phone-laws-legislation

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(Cell Phone Signs Continued)

Design of Cell Phone Signs:

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

Maryland Regulation: (Free) http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/Maryland_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf

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

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- Maryland allows for the relinquishing of a new born infant (10 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 to a law enforcement officer as defined by the statute. As of 3/1/2019 we are unaware of any requirement in the law for the posting of signs. (SSA-CW#18-04)

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