

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

WISCONSIN – State Specific Signs

Wisconsin 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

Wisconsin DOT Regulatory Signs: (Free)

<https://wisconsin.gov/dtsdManuals/traffic-ops/manuals-and-standards/signplate/rseries/R7-8A.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)
- Wisconsin requires that the reserved parking sign also state the space is for “Vehicles with DIS or DIS VET Plates or State Disabled Card.” (346.503)

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Wisconsin No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of Wisconsin prohibits smoking in a public place or place of employment or within a reasonable distance of these facilities. The only exemptions to the statewide ban are for cigar bars, retail tobacco stores, and designated rooms in nursing homes. Wisconsin Act 12 became law on 7/5/2010 and requires posting of signs enforcing the law at various locations. (101.123, WI Act 12)

Resources:

Wisconsin Regulation: (Free)

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/related/acts/12.pdf>

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- The state statute requires the posting of “No Smoking” signs with 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, by the owner or other person in control of any facility where smoking is prohibited. (WI Act 12)

Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

Chapter DHS 172 of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services stipulates rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code became effective on 8/1/2007.

Resources:

Wisconsin Regulation: (Free)

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/register/2016/726B/remove/dhs172>

NSP Foundation: (Free)

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

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

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

- A sign stating “No Lifeguard on Duty” posted at a pool where lifeguards are not provided. (DHS172.22(1)(c))
- A sign stating “Non-guarded Area” posted at whirlpools located in a water attraction complex. (DHS172.22(1)(d))
- A sign stating pool rules. (DHS172.29(1)(b))
- A sign stating “NO DIVING” posted at non-diving areas of the pool. (DHS172.29(1)(c))
- A sign stating maximum patron load within pool enclosure. (DHS172.29(1)(c))
- A sign stating water slide and pool slide rules. (DHS172.29(2))
- A sign stating whirlpool rules preceded by the word “WARNING.” (DHS172.29(3))

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- A sign at vortex and current pools stating pool rules and a sign stating “Artificial Current; Strong Swimmers Only.” (DHS172.29(4))
- A sign at cold soak pools stating pool rules and a sign stating the water temperature in Fahrenheit. (DHS172.299(5))
- A sign at interactive play water attraction stating rules. (DHS172.29(6))

Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

The State of Wisconsin allows residents of the state to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit granted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. An applicant for a permit must submit to a background check and complete an acceptable firearm training program. There are certain places such as courthouses, law enforcement facilities, airports, schools, etc. where CCW is forbidden even with a permit. Wisconsin honors the CCW permits of a number of other states. (175.60{7}) (175.60{4a, 9g})

Resources:

Wisconsin Regulation: (Free)

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/175/60>

Handgunlaw.com/Wisconsin: (Free)

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

Design of Concealed Weapons Signs:

- By state law, the owner of a private business may forbid CCW in their establishment by posting a sign at the entrance stating that weapons are forbidden in the facility. The regulation does not specify language to be used on the sign but does specify a minimum size of the sign of 5” by 7”. (175.60{15m}) (Wis. Stats. 943.13(2))

Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

Wisconsin bans the use of all hand-held electronic wireless communication devices for texting by all drivers of motorized vehicles. Wisconsin Assembly Bill 496 went into effect on 5/5/2010.

Resources:

Wisconsin Regulation: (Free)

[Wisconsin Legislature: 346.89](#)

Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free)

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

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Design of Cell Phone Signs:

- As of 9/1/2019 we are not aware of any mandatory “no cell phone” sign postings required in Wisconsin
- 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:

Wisconsin Regulation: (Free)

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

NSH Alliance: (Free)

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

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- In 2001 Wisconsin Act 2 established the 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, fire station, or law enforcement agency required by the Act. Though not mandated by law, hospitals may post a sign indicating they are a facility accepting baby surrender. (48.195)

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