

COMPARISON OF CURRENT SIGN CODE AND PROPOSED SIGN CODE

TOPIC	CURRENT SIGN CODE	PROPOSED SIGN CODE
Definitions	Definitions do not address new types of signs and illumination.	Added new definition for co-tenancy, direct lighting, digital sign, gross floor area, interactive sign, LED sign, luminance, portable sign and tri-vision sign to address new sign types. Redefined flag. Added new illumination types of LCD, LED and neon. Added modes of operation.
Exemptions	All roof signs are prohibited.	Exempt if roof sign is flat on the roof and only visible from the air. It does not count towards building sign area. Murals have been added as an exemption.
Prohibited Signs	Does not address the new potential sign types.	No sign or display may imitate or resemble official traffic sign/signal Interactive signs Signs on wind machines, cellular towers or other equipment except for logos
Illumination Standards Table 56.090-1	Defines illumination types by zone district	Eliminates this table and incorporates into Tables 56.150-1, 56.170-1 and 56.170-2. This puts the illumination style in the table with the type of sign.
Maximum allowable sign area per site	Table 56.110.1 Establishes the maximum allowable sign area by zone & use	Eliminates this table and incorporates into Tables 56.150-1, 56.170-1 and 56.170-2. This table was confusing so we propose to put the maximum allowable area by the sign type.
Table 56.150-1 Building signs limitations	This table only addresses allowance area limits for projecting signs and maximum number of building signs	The draft table is revised to include maximum allowable building sign area, maximum number of signs, allowance of projecting/suspended signs and type of illumination. The maximum allowable calculation is only for building signs and is based a percentage of the gross floor area of the business or business frontage.
Table 56.170-1 Monument signs limitations	This table addresses both monument and freestanding signs and has caused confusion on its use.	The draft table is revised to address only monument signs. It includes maximum allowable sign area, maximum height of monument sign, maximum number of signs per parcel and type of illumination. The monument signs are regulated by parcel and not site to allow each business to have monument signs rather than by site. Drive through businesses are allowed 64 square feet of monuments to provide for menu boards. Each zoning district has an increase in allowed monument size of up to 32 sq.ft. This eliminates the debate on what is the business frontage.
Table 56.170-2 Freestanding signs limitations	This is a new table so nothing in current code to relate to.	The draft table is revised to address only freestanding signs. It includes maximum allowable sign area, maximum height of monument sign, maximum number of signs per site and type of illumination. The freestanding signs are regulated by site. The freestanding signs are governed by the size of the site and is not part of the maximum allowable sign area for an individual business. Also added the height of sign may be measured from the elevation of the centerline of nearest travel lane of street or highway.
Section 20.56.170(E)(6) Minimum lettering size	Requires a minimum of 9 inch letters on freestanding signs.	It is proposed to eliminate this section and not require a minimum letter size. The letter size would be determined by the business and sign company.
Section 20.56.170(E)(8) Internal Lighting	Requires a minimum of 25% of internally lit sign to be opaque	This has been difficult to enforce and did not accomplish the intent of making signs more like channel. This is being eliminated
Computer controlled variable message electronic and animate signs	This section of the code regulates computer controlled electronic signs with 3 regulations: allowable zoning districts, time of 2 minutes constant display and no brighter than 30,000 lumens. The City has never regulated the 2 minute static time and lumens is not the current measurement for light from a sign.	The draft does not change the zoning districts allowed and adds PF on site over 10 acres. The digital sign standards propose shorter display times, establishes restrictions on the maximum sign size, regulates brightness by foot/candles, spacing standards and operational standards.
Temporary Signs	There are 2 day temporary signs and then options of 10 or 20 day temp sign with a permit. This has always been difficult to regulate.	The draft proposes to change Two Day temporary signs to Portable Signs with a new definition in the definition section. The portable signs cannot be larger than 8 sq. ft. and 4 feet tall, displayed only during business hours and location restrictions. Section B addresses all other temporary signs. Temporary signs are at the discretion of the property owner/management and restricted to 2 per public entrance, not to exceed 8 per site. All temporary signs must receive a temporary sign permit. The application will have the restricted time frame to display the sign. The maximum size is 18 sq. ft with the exception of 80 sq. ft. for lease signs. There are location restrictions.
Computations	The computations for signs is the shape around the sign area.	As suggested from the workshops, this section is moved to Section 20.56.110 to have the method of calculation in the beginning of the code. The draft proposes to calculate the geometric area of the sign faces and not the shape surrounding the sign area. This method calculates only the sign area such as channel letters. This is intended to encourage channel letters because a business could potentially have a larger sign if using channel letters rather than a cabinet sign.
Sign Permits	The requiring of a sign permit when specific to a change in copy has caused some confusion.	The draft proposed to allow the change of copy and plexiglass panel without a permit. However, any change affecting the structure or electricity of a sign requires a sign permit.
Nonconforming Signs	Does not address changing a nonconforming sign to digital.	The draft adds that a nonconforming sign cannot be changed to a digital sign unless the sign is brought into conformance with this code. There is an exception for the replacement or enhancement of existing digital signs.