

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

FLORIDA – 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

Florida Regulation: (Free)

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&SearchString=parking&URL=0500-0599/0553/Sections/0553.5041.html

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, R8-8b)
- 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)
- Florida also requires that the ADAAG compliant sign include the caption "PARKING BY DISABLED PERMIT ONLY." (553.5041(6))
- Signs erected after 10/1/1996 must also indicate the amount of the fine for illegal use of the space. (553.5041(6))

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- Some municipalities may post a sign indicating an ADA parking space is a tow away zone if used illegally.

No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of Florida prohibits smoking in indoor workplaces. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to stand-alone bars, retail tobacco shops, smoking research and cessation laboratories, certain non-commercial associations, and designated smoking rooms in public lodging establishments, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection smoking lounges. The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act became law on 7/1/2003 and requires posting of signs enforcing the law at various locations. (386.204)

Resources:

- Florida Clean Indoor Air Act:** (Free) http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0300-0399/0386/0386PartIIContentsIndex.html&StatuteYear=2010&Title=-%3E2010-%3EChapter%20386-%3EPart%2011
- Florida Beverage Law Statute:** (Free) <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2011/561.695>

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- The state statute defines an indoor workplace as an enclosed space where one or more persons engage in work. “No Smoking” signs 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, may be posted by the owner or other person in control of that place at their discretion, but is not required by law. (386.203) (386.206)
- For stand-alone bars, where the law permits smoking, the owner must post a sign at each entrance stating that smoking is permitted. (386.2045) (Florida Statute 561.695{4})
- For smoking lounges at U.S. Customs facilities and smoking related medical research laboratories, a sign must be posted informing the public that no smoking is permitted except in the designated smoking areas at that facility. (386.206)

Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

Chapter 64E-9 of the Florida Administrative Code (FAC) stipulates rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code became effective on 10/5/1993 and requires the posting of signs at public swimming pools and spas.

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Resources:

FAC Regulation: (Free) www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=64E-9

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

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

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

- A sign stating the rules and regulations for bathers. (64E-9.008{6})

Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

Chapter 790 of the Florida State Statutes allows residents of the state to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit granted by the state Department of Agriculture to do so. An applicant for a permit must be at least 21 years old, free from a conviction of a felony or controlled substance offense, and have completed a recognized firearm safety class. There are certain places and events such as government buildings, polling places, airports, etc. where CCW is forbidden even with a permit. Florida honors the CCW permits of a number of other states. (790.06{1-2, 12}) (790.115)

Resources:

Florida Regulation: (Free) http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0700-0799/0790/Sections/0790.06.html

Handgunlaw.com/Florida: (Free) <http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/florida.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. Florida law does not allow a business to create a “weapons free” zone by posting a sign.
- “No Weapons Signs” only have the force of the law when posted at places and events where the state regulations forbid CCW. (790.06 {12}) (790.115)

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Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

The State of Florida bans the use of hand-held cell phones for texting by all drivers of motorized vehicles. As of 9/1/2017 we are unaware of Florida having any other restrictions or bans on the use of cell phones by drivers of motorized vehicles.

Resources:

State Law Updater: (Free) <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2013/316.305>

Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free) <http://handsfreeinfo.com/florida-cell-phones-texting-laws-hands-free-info>

- 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:

Florida Regulation: (Free) http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/Florida_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf

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

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- In 2008 Florida adopted provisions for the relinquishing of a new born infant (7 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 emergency medical facility required by the Act. Though not mandated by law, approved facilities may post a sign indicating they are a facility accepting baby surrender. (383.50)

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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 Aldridge–Benge Firefighter Safety Act became law on 12/13/2009. 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. (633.027)

Resources:

Aldridge-Benge Act: (Free)

http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch_2008-192.pdf

Florida Fire Prevention Code: (Free)

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=69A-60.0081>

NIOSH Truss System Alert: (Free)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-132/pdfs/2005-132.pdf>

Design of Truss Identification Signs:

- The Florida Fire Prevention Code requires that commercial, industrial, and multiunit residential structures that utilize light frame truss-type construction post a sign on the building with the approved symbol. (69A-60.0081{3})
- The code specifies an approved symbol with a center circle within which the proper identification label should be placed. (69A-60.0081{3a-c} & fig. 1)
 - 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 letter “RF”
- The approved symbol is a Maltese cross, 8”w x 8”h, of a bright red reflective color. (69A-60.0081{2b} & fig. 1)
- The proper symbol should be placed within 2 feet to the left of the main entry door and not less than 4 feet above grade. If the building has multiple entrances, the local jurisdiction may require additional signs at each entrance. (69A-60.0081{4-8})

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