

Chapter 17.114

SIGNS

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17.114.010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a safe, consistent, equitable and legal system of signing. The regulations of such factors as size, location, construction, etc., will encourage the communication of information and orientation for both visitors and citizens; provide for the effective identification and advertisement of business establishments; eliminate visual blight; and provide standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare. (Ord. 680 §1(part), 1998; Ord. 634 §1(part), 1995)

17.114.020 Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

"Building frontage" means the linear frontage of a building measured along the side of the building where primary access to the structure is obtained.

"Canopy" means a structure made of cloth, metal or other material with frames affixed to the building.

"Construction sign" means any information sign which identifies the architect, engineers, contractors and other individuals or firms involved with the construction of a building, or announcing the character of the building or enterprise, which is erected during the building construction period.

"Directional sign" or "incidental sign" means small signs, less than four square feet in surface area, of a noncommercial nature, intended primarily for the convenience of the public. Included are signs designating restrooms, address numbers, hours of operation, entrances to buildings, arrows indicating directions, help wanted, public telephone, entrances, exits, etc.

"Electronic changing sign" means an electronic sign upon which the entire copy or message may appear or change from time to time upon a lamp bank, such as time and temperature displays, which by its nature and intensity is not a flashing sign.

"Flashing sign" means any sign which contains or is illuminated by a light source which produces a brilliant flash and darkness on an alternating basis, which results in a pulsating effect designed primarily to attract attention.

"Freestanding sign" means any sign set apart with no

structural attachments to a building structure and is meant to include ground-mounted signs and pole signs for the purpose of these regulations.

"Grade" means the relative finished ground level within twenty feet of the sign.

"Height" or "height of sign" means the vertical distance from the average grade within twenty feet of the structure to the highest point of a sign or any vertical projection thereof, including its supporting columns.

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Lighting, Indirect or Internal. "Indirect or internal lighting" means any illuminated sign constructed so that the immediate source of illumination is not visible when the sign is lighted and which does exceed ten candle power per square foot measured at ten feet from the sign.

"Monument sign" or "ground sign" means a sign which extends no more than eight feet in height and is mounted on the ground and supported by one or more uprights, poles or braces in or upon the ground other than a pole sign as defined.

"Moving sign" means any sign which produces apparent motion or the visual image, including but not limited to illusion or moving objects, moving patterns or bands of light, expanding or contracting shapes, rotation or any similar effect of animation which is designed or operated in a manner primarily to attract attention.

"Pole sign" means a single- or multiple-faced sign extending eight or more feet above grade, supported by one or more uprights in the ground and detached from any building or structure.

"Political sign" means a sign advertising a candidate or candidates for public elective office, or a political party, or a sign urging a particular vote on a public issue decided by ballot.

"Portable sign" means any sign not meeting the anchorage requirements of the Uniform Sign Code.

"Projecting sign" means a single- or multiple-faced sign which is designed and constructed to be mounted to the wall of a building and which will extend more than twelve inches from the wall.

"Property line" means the line denoting the limits of legal ownership of property.

"Public sign" means a sign erected and maintained by the city within the public right-of-way.

"Readerboard" means a sign or part of a sign on which the letters are readily replaceable such that the copy can be changed from time to time at will.

"Roof sign" means any sign erected upon, against or directly above a roof or on top of or above the parapet of a building, including a sign affixed to any equipment attached to the building.

"Sandwich ("A") board" means a double-faced sign hinged or connected at the top which is spread for stabilization and set upon the ground.

"Sign" means any medium, including its structure and component parts, other than paint on a building, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention to the subject matter for communication purposes.

"Sign area" means the surface contained within a single continuous perimeter which encloses the entire sign cabinet but excluding any support of framing structure that does not convey a message. Where signs are of a three-dimensional, round or other solid shape, the largest cross-section viewed as a flat projection shall be used for the purpose of determining the sign area. Signs visible from more than one direction or without clearly defined sign faces shall be considered as having two faces.

"Street frontage" means street(s), or public right(s) of-way parallel to the property line used to compute the area of sign(s) intended to be located in such a manner as to have primary exposure on that street or right-of-way.

"Temporary sign" means any sign, banner, pendant, valance or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard or other light material displayed for a period of less than ten days in any calendar year.

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"Wall sign" means a single-face sign which does not extend more than twelve inches from the wall and the copy of which runs parallel to the wall to which it is attached or painted on.

"Window sign" means a sign which is applied to, attached to or located within the interior of a window. (Ord. 820 §3, 2012; Ord. 680 §1(part), 1998; Ord. 634 §1(part), 1995)

17.114.030 General sign regulations. A. 1. No sign governed by the provisions of this chapter shall be erected, structurally altered, or relocated without first receiving a sign permit from the city.

2. Street trees are protected by Scappoose Municipal Code Chapter 17.104, Street Trees, and Chapter 17.140, Public Land Tree Removal and the Scappoose Comprehensive Plan. Signs located more than eight feet above grade may be visually limited by street trees.

B. All signs shall comply with the following requirements and those specified by zoning district:

1. Construction shall satisfy the requirements of the current version of the Uniform Sign Code.

2. Electrical requirements for signs shall be governed by the current version of the National Electrical Code and Oregon Electrical Specialty Code Amendments.

3. Except for exempt signs, all signs shall be

securely attached to a building or the ground.

4. All signs, including exempt signs, shall conform to all visual clearance area requirements of Scappoose Municipal Code Chapter 12.10.

5. All signs, including exempt signs, together with their supports, braces and guys shall be maintained in a safe and secure manner.

6. All illuminated signs shall be internally or indirectly illuminated.

C. The following signs shall be exempt from the application, permit and fee requirements of this title:

1. Impermanent construction and subdivision signs not exceeding thirty-two square feet in area;

2. Public signs, directional signs, warning signs or information signs or structures required or authorized by law, or by federal, state, county or city authority;

3. Historical site plaques;

4. Official and legal notices issued by any court, public body, person or officer in performance of a public duty or in giving any legal notice;

5. Official flags of the United States of America, counties, municipalities, official flags of foreign nations, flags of internationally and nationally recognized organizations;

6. On-premises signs not readable from the public right-of-way, i.e., menu boards, etc.;

7. Political signs, provided such signs shall not exceed four square feet in area or be posted more than forty-five days before the election to which they relate and are removed within fifteen days following the election;

8. Real estate signs not exceeding four square feet in area in residential districts or thirty-two square feet in commercial or industrial districts;

9. Residential identification signs not exceeding two square feet;

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10. Structures intended for a separate use such as phone booths, Goodwill containers, etc.;

11. Temporary signs not exceeding four square feet;

12. Window signs;

13. Signs carved into a building or which are a part of materials which are an integral part of the building;

14. Murals and decorative painted wall decorations without advertising or recognizable logos;

15. Decorative flags not to exceed three feet by five feet limited to one per business frontage.

- D. The following signs are prohibited:
1. Flashing and moving signs;
 2. Portable signs;
 3. Sandwich ("A") boards exceeding four square feet in area per sign face;
 4. Any signs attached to utility poles, streetlight poles, or traffic-control standard poles, street trees or otherwise located in the public right-of-way or city-maintained areas adjacent to the public right-of-way without written approval of the city manager;
 5. Signs in a dilapidated or hazardous condition;
 6. Signs on doors, windows or fire escapes that restrict free ingress or egress;
 7. Signs which purport to be, are an imitation of, or resemble an official traffic sign or signal, could cause confusion with any official sign, or which obstruct the visibility of any traffic sign or signal;
 8. Signs placed on or painted on a motor vehicle or trailer and parked with the primary purpose of providing signs not otherwise allowed by this title;
 9. Balloon signs;
 10. Any sign not specifically permitted by this chapter is prohibited unless specifically approved by the planning commission.
- E. All freestanding signs shall comply with the following provisions:
1. One freestanding sign shall be permitted per street frontage of a lot or parcel, or each three hundred feet of street frontage of a lot or parcel, not to exceed two freestanding signs per lot or parcel.
 2. Freestanding sign supports shall be placed behind the property line and no closer than ten feet to any adjacent private property line.
 3. Freestanding signs may project over the public property line provided they conform to the standards established for projecting signs.
- F. All projecting signs shall comply with the following provisions:
1. No projecting sign shall extend above the highest structural component of the building to which it is attached or more than twenty-four feet above grade.
 2. Signs over the public right-of-way, including freestanding signs and swinging signs, shall conform to the following standards:

<u>Clearance</u>	<u>Maximum Projection</u>
Less than 8'	Not permitted
8'	1 foot
9' and above	2 feet for every foot above 8 feet in height, but no more than 9 feet.

No sign shall project within two feet of the curb line.

G. All roof signs shall comply with the following provisions:

1. All roof signs shall be installed or erected in such a manner that no support structure as visible from grade level or any abutting public right-of-way.

2. Roof signs may be erected so as to appear from all sides as a wall sign applied to an existing penthouse which appears to be a part of the building itself.

3. Roof signs shall not exceed the highest point of the building or structure. On flat roofs, the roof sign shall not exceed eight feet above the highest point of the building. In no case shall a roof sign extend more than twenty-four feet above grade.

H. All wall signs shall conform to the following provisions:

1. Wall signs may be attached flat to, or pinned away from the wall, but shall not project more than twelve inches from the wall.

2. Wall signs shall not extend above the height of the wall to which it is attached or more than twenty-four feet above grade.

I. Any sign which is not in compliance is an unlawful sign and declared to be a public nuisance.

1. The city manager may order the removal of any sign erected or maintained in violation of this title. He or she shall give ten calendar days notice in writing to the owner of such sign, or of the building structure, or premises on which the sign is located, to remove the sign or bring it into compliance. Any sign located on a utility pole, street light pole or traffic-control standard poles, street trees or otherwise located in the public right-of-way or city-maintained areas adjacent to the public right-of-way without written approval of the city manager shall be removed immediately and with no notice;

2. The city manager may order the removal of a sign immediately and without notice if, in his/her opinion, the condition of the sign is such as to present an immediate threat to the safety of the public, and is authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to remove such sign. Neither the city or any of its agents shall be liable for the sign or any damage

to the sign.

3. Violation of this title shall include failure to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or the erection, use or display or the allowing of, the permitting of, or one suffering erection, use or display of any sign not in compliance with all the provisions of this title.

4. The remedies provided in this section for violations of or failure to comply with provisions of this title shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other remedy provided by law. (Ord. 820 §3, 2012; Ord. 680 §1(part), 1998; Ord. 634 §1(part), 1995)

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17.114.040 Signs in residential zones. A. R-1 and R-4 Zones.

1. One name plate or identification sign with a maximum of two faces not exceeding two square feet per face per dwelling unit is permitted. Uses allowed conditionally may be allowed to erect one sign per street frontage not to exceed thirty-two square feet.

2. Signs permitted outright in the R-1 and R-4 zones may be located anywhere on the premises; however, no freestanding sign may exceed eight feet in height or project beyond any property line. Building-mounted signs shall be wall-mounted and shall not be erected on any building roof.

B. MH and A-1 Zones.

1. Signs permitted in the R-1 and R-4 zones are permitted in the MH and A-1 zones. For multiple-family dwellings, permitted manufactured home parks and conditional uses in the MH and A-1 zones, one identification sign totaling thirty-two square feet in area shall be permitted for each street frontage.

2. Signs permitted in these residential districts may be located anywhere on the premises; however, no freestanding sign shall exceed eight feet in height or extend beyond a property line. Building-mounted signs shall be wall-mounted and shall not be erected on any building roof. (Ord. 680 §1(part), 1998; Ord. 634 §1(part), 1995)

17.114.050 Commercial and industrial zones. A. The total allowable area of all permitted signs shall be as follows:

1. A total sign area of one and one-half square feet for each lineal foot of building frontage or one square foot for each lineal foot of lot frontage, whichever results in the larger sign area. Within multiple tenant facilities, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner to determine how the total allowable sign area for the property shall be apportioned and the sign permit application shall require the signature of the property owner.

2. Freestanding or projecting signs shall be limited

to one hundred fifty square feet per face. Such signs shall not exceed twenty-four feet in height from grade to the highest element.

B. Residential uses in the commercial and industrial zones shall be subject to the limits and requirements of the A-1 zone. (Ord. 680

17.114.060 Nonconforming signs. A. If, at the time of passage of this title, a sign does not conform to the provisions of this title, such sign may be continued and maintained in reasonable repair. This grandfather status, however, shall not prevent the city from taking action under Section 17.114.030 where a clear and immediate threat to the public safety and welfare exists.

B. Nonconforming signs which are structurally altered, relocated or replaced shall comply immediately with all provisions of this title.

C. If a nonconforming sign is destroyed by any cause to the extent or more than fifty percent of its value, then and without further action by the planning commission, the sign shall be subject to all applicable regulations of this title. For the purpose of this title, the value of any sign shall be the estimated cost to replace the sign in kind, as determined by the building inspector. (Ord. 680 §1(part),1998; Ord. 634 §1(part), 1995)

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