

CHAPTER 9

SIGNS

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SECTION 900. PURPOSE AND INTENT

Exterior signs have an immediate impact on the character and streetscape of the City. As a clearly visible part of the urban environment, signs may attract, distract, or repel the viewing public, affect the public safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and may negatively impact the character of residential neighborhoods. For these reasons this Chapter establishes minimum standards to promote life, health, safety, welfare, convenience and enjoyment of the public by regulating the design, quality of the materials, construction, location, electrification and maintenance of all on-premise business signs and advertising devices visible from public rights-of-ways.

SECTION 901. APPLICABILITY

All signs not exempted herein (See Section 903, Exempted Signs), shall comply with the provisions of this Chapter. All signs shall also comply with all other applicable provisions of other regulations of the City of Catoosa.

SECTION 902. PERMIT AND REMOVAL BOND REQUIRED

- A. Unless otherwise provided in this Chapter, it shall be unlawful to construct, modify or relocate any sign without first obtaining a Sign Permit.
- B. No sign shall be constructed unless it complies with all pertinent codes, including but not limited to the Electrical and Building Codes.
- C. The construction of signs larger than 500 square feet in Display Surface Area requires the posting of a Removal Bond, which shall be submitted with the Building Permit application in an amount as specified herein and certified by a Registered Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma. The amount of said Bond shall be sufficient to remove and dispose of said sign in the case that it becomes unsafe, dilapidated,

deteriorated or abandoned, and shall be in an amount of 125% of said Engineer's estimate to remove and dispose of such sign. The City of Catoosa shall be made the beneficiary of said Removal Bond.

SECTION 903. EXEMPTED SIGNS

The following signs shall not be prohibited by this Code and shall not be included in the computation of Display Surface Area:

- A. Temporary signs (See Section 904);
- B. One Nameplate attached to the face of the wall and not exceeding four (4) square feet in Display Surface Area;
- C. Signs which are not visible from a public street;
- D. Tablets built into the wall of a building or other structure and used for inscriptions, or as memorial tablets or for similar purposes and not exceeding four (4) feet in Display Surface Area;
- E. Signs of warning, directive, instructional, or informational nature constructed by a public utility, franchised transportation company or government agency;
- F. Legal notices and street numbers;
- G. Signs within a building, located more than 15 inches from any window. Also signs within a building, located less than 15 inches from a window and oriented to be primarily visible from inside the building;
- H. Signs not exceeding three (3) square feet of display surface area of a warning directive or instructional nature (entrance, exit, and restroom etc.);
- I. Signs which are attached as labels of a commodity offered for sale;
- J. Signs on accessory equipment or structures identifying the manufacturer, make and model. These signs (signs on satellite dishes, air conditioner and fences etc.) shall be limited to a maximum Display Surface Area of 14.4 square inches for each piece of equipment or structure; and
- K. A Banner attached to the wall of a building not exceeding 32 square feet.

SECTION 904. TEMPORARY SIGNS

The following Temporary Signs are allowed under the provisions of this Code:

- A. Special event signs which advertise or promote a special event:
 - 1. Shall be allowed for 30 days; and
 - 2. Shall be removed within 24 hours after the termination of the event.

B. Temporary Real Estate Signs

Temporary Real Estate Signs advertising a residential or commercial subdivision development, or the sale rental or lease of the premises are permitted. The maximum number permitted is one (1) per street frontage. Real Estate signs are regulated by Zoning Districts as follows:

1. Real Estate Signs in the AG District

The sign shall not exceed 80 square feet in Display Surface Area or 15 feet in height. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.

2. Real Estate Signs in the RS, RD, RT or RMHP Districts

The sign, advertising an individual dwelling unit, shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in Display Surface Area, or exceed eight (8) feet in height. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.

3. Real Estate Signs in the RM or RMHP Districts

The sign, advertising multiple dwelling units or spaces, shall not exceed 10 square feet in Display Surface Area or ten (10) feet in height. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.

4. Real Estate Signs in the P, O, C or I Districts

The sign shall not exceed 32 square feet of Display Surface Area, nor exceed 15 feet in height. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.

C. Temporary Construction Signs

1. A maximum of one (1) temporary construction sign may be located on each street frontage of the development.
2. The sign shall not exceed one-half of a square foot of Display Surface Area per lineal foot of street frontage. However, in no event shall the sign be restricted to less than 32 square feet nor be permitted to exceed 400 square feet of display surface area.
3. The sign shall not exceed 15 feet in height.
4. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.
5. Construction Signs in the Residential Districts are regulated as follows:
 - a. During the initial period of construction, not to exceed 18 months, a sign advertising the construction of improvements on the premises, may be constructed on each perimeter street frontage of the development;
 - b. After the initial period of construction, the construction sign Display Surface Area shall be reduced to not exceed eight (8) feet in height, nor

eight (8) square feet in Display Surface Area.

- D. Election Campaign Signs, if installed not more than 45 days prior to an election and removed within seven (7) days following the election.

SECTION 905. PROHIBITED SIGNS

- A. Signs which otherwise require and have not been issued a permit shall not be allowed in any Zoning District.
- B. No Business Sign shall be permitted to extend into or be placed within the public right-of-way, except as specifically provided herein. (See Section 906.F.3)
- C. All advertising media, including commercial banners, which are located on or within the public right of way, unless otherwise permitted.
- D. Any sign that is attached to a utility pole, curb, sidewalk, lamppost, hydrant, bridge, highway marker, highway regulatory sign or mailbox on public property, except official notices.
- E. Any sign which may interfere with the view of or be confused with any Traffic Control Sign, signal or devise, or any sign which may interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- F. Any sign located within the Sight Distance Triangle, excluding those signs listed in Section 903.E. (See Section 212 and Figure 2-1.)
- G. No Real Estate Sign shall be permitted if it advertises property for uses other than for which the property is zoned or incorrectly states the zoning of the property.
- H. No sign may be painted on or mounted on the roof of any structure. Roof signs lawfully existing on the effective date of this Code or amendment hereto, are regulated by Chapter 14, Nonconformities.
- I. Outdoor Advertising Signs shall not be allowed in any Zoning District. Outdoor Advertising Signs lawfully existing on the effective date of this Code or amendment hereto, are regulated by Chapter 14, Nonconformities.

SECTION 906. GENERAL USE CONDITIONS FOR BUSINESS SIGNS

- A. The number of signs, total Aggregate Display Surface Area and Display Surface Area of all faces of all signs, location of and design standards, excluding any signs exempted by Section 903, on any lot or any street frontage shall adhere to the restrictions established in this Code.
- B. The maximum number of business ground signs permitted per lot of record is as designated for each Zoning District. (See the respective subsections of Section 907, Business Sign Restriction by Zoning District.) Wall signs are not included in the calculation of Display Surface Area.

C. Display Surface Area - General Information

1. Ground Signs

The Display Surface Area shall be determined by the area enclosed by the minimum rectangles which fully contains all extremities of the sign, exclusive of its supports. This rectangle is to be calculated from an orthographic projection of the sign viewed horizontally. A view point for this projection is to be taken which gives the largest rectangle of that kind as the viewpoint is rotated horizontally around the sign. If elements of the sign are movable or flexible, the measurement shall be taken when the elements are fully extended and parallel to the plane of view.

2. Wall Signs

The sum of the areas of the minimum rectangles enclosing each word attached to any particular facade.

3. Window Signs

The sum of the areas of the minimum rectangles enclosing each word, figure, design and symbol if the window or other transparent material forms the background, or the entire area of the background material when such material is translucent or opaque.

4. Double or Multifaced Signs

Unless otherwise specified only one side of a double-faced sign shall be included in a calculation of sign area. However, the area of each additional sign face shall be calculated as another sign.

5. Multiple Signs on a Single Structure

When a business has more than one sign on a single structure, the sign area shall be calculated by the individual geometric shapes of each sign.

6. Computation Based on Lineal Footage

In computing the permitted Display Surface Area for Business Signs and Outdoor Advertising Signs, the lineal footage of an abutting non-arterial street shall not be combined with the lineal footage of any abutting arterial street, freeway or freeway service road which is included in the computation of the permitted Display Surface Area.

7. The calculation of permitted Aggregate Display Surface Area shall not include the Display Surface Area of Window Signs.

D. Height Measurement

Sign height is measured from the average level of the grade below the sign to the topmost point of the sign.

E. Setbacks

1. Signs and all parts thereof shall be setback from the centerline of an abutting street one-half (1/2) of the right-of-way width designated on the Major Street and Highway Plan or 25 feet if the street is not designated on the Major Street and Highway Plan.
2. Signs, other than those permitted in an R District, if visible from an R District other than a street, highway or freeway right-of-way, or if visible from a Designated Residential Development Area of a PUD, shall be set back from such District or Area a minimum distance of 50 feet.
3. Signs with a Display Surface Area larger than 300 square feet, which are visible from an R District other than a street, highway or freeway right-of-way or if visible from a Designated Residential Development Area of a PUD, shall be located at least 300 feet from said District or Area.
4. Signs shall be setback a minimum distance of 10 feet from a freeway right-of-way.

F. General Standards

1. A Wall or Projecting Sign shall not extend above the top of the parapet or building wall on which it is located. However, in instances where the height of the parapet or building wall or where construction or architectural features will not permit a wall sign of three (3) feet in height, said sign may extend above the parapet or building wall a distance which will permit a sign of three (3) feet in height.
2. No sign is permitted to be located upon or constructed within a required parking space or loading berth, nor may a sign cause any hazard to motor vehicle or pedestrian traffic exiting, entering or traveling within the site on which it is located.
3. No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of any public street unless approval is given by the Board of Adjustment and a removal agreement has been entered into by the sign owner and the City of Catoosa.
4. Projecting or Ground Signs shall maintain a minimum separation of 30 feet from any other Projecting, Ground or Outdoor Advertising Sign.

G. Illumination

1. The light from any permitted illuminated sign shall be shaded, shielded or directed so the light intensity or brightness will not be hazardous, objectionable, or pose a nuisance as regulated by Section 8 of the Catoosa code of Ordinances to the adjacent or surrounding areas.
2. The illumination which results from a lighted sign shall not exceed 70 foot candles measured at a two (2) foot distance.

Strobe lights, beacons or revolving lights are prohibited if visible from a public street. (See Section 221)

SECTION 907. Business Sign Restrictions by Zoning District

Business Signs shall conform to the standards established in this section, in addition to those applicable standards set forth elsewhere in this Code.

A. Business Signs in AG Agricultural Districts and P Parking Districts

1. One (1) Bulletin Board may be constructed on each street frontage of an educational, religious, institutional, or similar use requiring announcement of its activities as follows:
 - a. The Bulletin Board shall not exceed 32 square feet in Display Surface Area, nor 20 feet in height; and
 - b. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.
2. One Identification Sign may be constructed on each street frontage of a permitted nonresidential use as follows:
 - a. The sign shall not exceed 32 square feet of Display Surface Area nor 20 feet in height; and
 - b. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.
3. Temporary Real Estate Sign (See Section 904.B.2)
4. Temporary Construction Sign (See Section 904.C.3)
5. Signs on Accessory Equipment (See Section 903.J)

B. Signs in Residential Districts

1. One (1) Bulletin Board may be constructed on each street frontage of any educational, religious, institutional, or similar use requiring announcement of its activities as follows:
 - a. The Bulletin Board shall not exceed 32 square feet in Display Surface Area, nor 20 feet in height; and
 - b. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.
2. One (1) Identification Sign may be constructed on each perimeter street frontage of a multifamily development, manufactured home park or subdivision, single-family subdivision or permitted nonresidential use as follows:
 - a. The sign shall not be restricted to less than 32 square feet in Display Surface Area and shall not exceed 50 square feet of Display Surface Area, nor 20 feet in height; and
 - b. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.

3. Temporary Real Estate Sign (See Section 904.B.2)
4. Temporary Construction Sign (See Section 904.C)
5. Signs on Accessory Equipment (See Section 903.J)

C. Business Signs in the Office District shall be regulated as follows:

1. Not more than one (1) sign may be constructed per each street frontage of a lot.
 - a. The sign shall not exceed 50 square feet of Display Surface Area;
 - b. Ground Signs in the O Districts shall not exceed the height of the building on which the principal use is located or 20 feet, whichever is lower; and
 - c. Illumination, if any, is permitted only by constant light.
2. Temporary Real Estate Sign (See Section 904.B)
3. Temporary Construction Sign (See Section 904.C)

D. Business Signs in the CBD and CS Commercial Shopping District

1. A maximum of one (1) sign per 150 feet of arterial street frontage (excluding wall signs) is permitted.
2. Ground or Projecting Signs
 - a. Shall not exceed 25 feet in height measured from the mean curb level or average ground level of the lot upon which it is constructed. However, in those cases where the abutting street is a designated State Highway, U.S. Highway or Interstate Highway, the maximum permitted height is 45 feet.
 - b. In those cases where the abutting street is a designated U.S. Highway or Interstate Highway and signs are requested taller than 45 feet, approval of such signs requires approval of a Special Exception from the Board of Adjustment.
3. Ground, Projecting and Roof Signs
 - a. Roof, Projecting, and Ground Signs, whether permitted as provided herein, or nonconforming, shall not exceed an Aggregate Display Surface Area of two (2) square feet per each lineal foot of street frontage if only one (1) such sign is constructed; or shall not exceed one (1) square foot per each lineal foot of street frontage if more than one (1) such sign is constructed.
 - b. No Roof, Projecting or Ground Sign is permitted to contain more than two (2) sides, and the total Display Surface Area for each side shall not exceed 500 square feet.

- c. In those cases where the abutting street is a designated U.S. Highway or Interstate Highway and signs are requested larger than 500 square feet, approval of such signs requires approval of a Special Exception from the Board of Adjustment.
- d. The two (2) sides shall face in opposite directions. "Opposite" means, in addition to its ordinary meaning, V-shaped signs when the angle of separation of the display surfaces does not exceed 15 feet.

4. Wall and Canopy Signs

Wall and Canopy Signs shall not exceed an Aggregate Display Surface Area of two (2) square feet per each lineal foot of the building wall to which the sign or signs are affixed.

E. CG, CH, IL, IM, and IH Use Conditions for Business Signs

1. The maximum number of signs permitted (excluding wall signs) shall be as follows:
 - a. CG and CH Districts one (1) per 100 feet of arterial street frontage or fraction thereof.
 - b. IL Districts one (1) per 150 feet of arterial frontage or fraction thereof.
 - c. IM and IH Districts one (1) per 200 feet of arterial street frontage or fraction thereof.
2. Ground or Projecting Business Sign Height:
 - a. Shall not exceed 30 feet in height measured from the mean curb level of the lot upon which it is located.
 - b. However, in those cases where the abutting street is a designated a State or US Highway or Interstate Highway, the maximum permitted height is 45 feet, except as otherwise provided in Section 907.D.2.b.
3. Ground, Projecting, Roof and Outdoor Advertising Signs Aggregate Display Surface Area
 - a. Whether permitted as provided herein or nonconforming, shall not exceed an Aggregate Display Surface Area as follows:
 - 1) Two (2) square feet per each lineal foot of street frontage if only one (1) such sign is constructed; or
 - 2) Shall not exceed one (1) square foot per each lineal foot of street frontage if more than one (1) such sign is constructed.

- b. No Roof, Projecting or Ground Sign is permitted to contain more than two (2) sides. The total Display Surface Area for each side shall not exceed 500 square feet.
 - c. The two (2) sides shall face in opposite directions. "Opposite" in addition to its ordinary meaning, means, V-shaped signs when the angle of separation of the display surfaces does not exceed 15 feet.
 - d. In those cases where the abutting street is a designated U.S. Highway or Interstate Highway and signs are requested larger than 500 square feet, approval of such signs requires approval of a Special Exception from the Board of Adjustment.
4. Wall and Canopy Signs shall not exceed an Aggregate Display Surface Area of three (3) square feet per each lineal foot of the building wall to which the signs or signs are affixed.

SECTION 908. FLASHING, DIGITAL, CHANGEABLE COPY, RUNNING LIGHT, ANIMATED, TWINKLING, REVOLVING OR ROTATING SIGNS OR SIGNS WITH MOVEMENT

Flashing, Digital, Changeable Copy, Running Light, Animated, Twinkling, Revolving or Rotating Signs or Signs with Movement shall comply with the following conditions:

- A. No such sign shall be located within 50 feet of the driving surface of a signalized intersection. The 50 feet shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point on a sign structure to the nearest point of the signalized intersection.
- B. No such sign shall be located within 25 feet of the driving surface of a street. The 25 feet shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point on a sign structure to the nearest point of the street curb, or edge of the traveled roadway marked or understood as such.
- C. No such sign, if visible from an O District, other than a street, highway, or freeway right-of-way, or if visible from an O district or area designated as residential, shall be setback a minimum of 300 feet from such Districts or Areas. The 300 feet shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point on a sign structure to the nearest point on the boundary of such O district.
- D. No such sign, if visible from an AG or R District other than a street, highway, or freeway right-of-way, or if visible from a designated residential development area, shall be setback a minimum of 300 feet from such districts or areas. The 300 feet shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point on a sign structure to the nearest point of an AG or R district or residential development area boundary line.
- E. No such sign shall, exceed an illumination of 70 foot candles measured at a 2 foot distance.

- F. No such digital sign shall display an illuminative brightness exceeding 500 NITs at any time between ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise or 6,500 NITs between ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset. Prior to the issuance of any permit for the installation, testing, maintenance, or use of any digital sign, the operator shall provide written certification that the illuminative brightness of the display shall not exceed 500 NITs at any time between ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.
- G. No such digital sign shall display an illuminative brightness of such intensity or brilliance that it impairs the vision or endangers the safety and welfare of any pedestrian, cyclist or person operating a motor vehicle.
- H. No such digital sign shall resemble or simulate any warning or danger signal or any official traffic control device, sign, signal or light.
- I. No such digital sign shall be permitted to operate unless it is equipped with:
 - 1) A default mechanism that shall freeze the sign in one position or static message if a malfunction occurs; and
 - 2) A mechanism able to automatically adjust the display's illuminative brightness according to natural ambient light conditions by means of a light detector/photo cell by which the sign's brightness shall be dimmed.
 - 3) Conditions establishing the minimum dwell time and maximum illuminative brightness levels for digital signs stated in subsection F, shall be subject to future modification and regulation in the exercise of the City's police powers and no vested right shall ever be created in these conditions.

SECTION 909. MAINTENANCE

- A. All signs, together with all of their structures and components shall be kept in good repair and be maintained in a safe condition.
- B. All sign sites shall be kept in a neat and attractive condition.
- C. The structure and display area shall be kept in a neat and attractive condition.

SECTION 910. REMOVAL OF ABANDONED OR DERELICT SIGNS

Removal Bonds shall be required for all signs larger than 500 square feet in Display Surface Area as required in Section 902.D above.

SECTION 911. NONCONFORMING SIGNS

For information relative to Nonconforming Signs see Chapter 14, Section 1403.

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