CHAPTER 27

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Authority

N.J.S.A. 27:1A-5, 27:1A-6, 39:4-8, and 39:4-120.

Source and Effective Date

R.2006 d.281, effective July 12, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1c, Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, expires on January 8, 2014. See: 45 N.J.R. 1947(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 27, Traffic Bureau, was adopted and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 27, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, expired on June 4, 1986.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 27, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, was adopted as new rules by R.1986 d.352, effective September 8, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 1184(a), 18 N.J.R. 1835(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 27, Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Safety Programs, was readopted as R.1991 d.234, effective April 8, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 395(a), 23 N.J.R. 1419(b).

Chapter 27, Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Safety Programs, was repealed and Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, was adopted as new rules by R.1996 d.198, effective April 15, 1996. See: 28 N.J.R. 797(b) 28 N.J.R. 1358(a), 28 N.J.R. 2079(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, was readopted as R.2001 d.68, effective January 25, 2001. As part of R.2001 d.68, Subchapter 2, Maximum Speed Limit on Highways in New Jersey, was repealed, effective February 20, 2001. See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).

Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, was readopted as R.2006 d.281, effective July 12, 2006. As a part of R.2006 d.281, Subchapter 4, Application Procedures, was renamed Application Procedures for Traffic Control Signals, and Subchapter 5, Certifications, was renamed Requests for Information, effective August 7, 2006. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, was scheduled to expire on July 12, 2013. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

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SUBCHAPTER 1. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

16:27-1.1 Traffic regulations

All matters concerning traffic regulations, including applications for traffic control devices, shall be referred to the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations, Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety, at the New Jersey Department of Transportation, PO Box 613, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0613. All public comments and questions about traffic control devices shall be referred to the Bureau.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).
Deleted "(for example, speed limits, stop signs, traffic signals, etc.)".
Amended by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Substituted "Engineering and Safety" for "Operations"; deleted "1035 Parkway Avenue," preceding "PO Box"; and added the last sentence.

16:27-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Authority" means the public authority, municipality or county having jurisdiction over highways upon which a traffic control device is located.

"Bureau" means the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations in the Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety at the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Division" means the Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety at the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Engineer" means the municipal or county engineer, the municipal or county traffic engineer, a qualified consulting engineer retained by the authority, or a qualified consulting

engineer retained on behalf of a private entity, as applicable, who is licensed as a New Jersey Professional Engineer.

"MUTCD" means the current "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways," issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

"Traffic control device" means a sign, signal, marking, or other device used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, pedestrian facility, or shared-use path by authority of a public agency having jurisdiction.

"Traffic control signal" or "traffic signal" means any highway traffic signal by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed.

New Rule, R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).

SUBCHAPTER 2. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 3. STANDARDS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

16:27-3.1 Standards

(a) The basic principles concerning the design and usage of traffic control devices are governed by the MUTCD. The MUTCD, adopted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a national standard for all classes of highways, is adopted by reference herein. All Department decisions with regard to traffic control devices shall be based on the MUTCD as provided by N.J.S.A. 39:4-120.

(b) The MUTCD is available in electronic format from the FHWA at http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/.

(c) The MUTCD is available in book form or as a compact disk from the following organizations:

1. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) at: https://www.transportation.org/publications/bookstore.nsf/Home?OpenForm;

2. Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) at: http://www.ite.org/bookstore/index.asp; and

3. American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) at: http://www.atssa.com/.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).
In (c), substituted "public comments" for "complaints, suggestions".
Amended by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Requirements". Rewrote the section.

SUBCHAPTER 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

16:27-4.1 Application process

(a) This subchapter provides the procedure that all authorities must follow in order to obtain the Commissioner's approval of an ordinance establishing a traffic control signal, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-8.a.

(b) An application requesting authorization to proceed with the design of a new traffic control signal, for modification to an existing traffic control signal that has not previously been approved, or for modification to an existing traffic control signal that has previously been approved, shall be submitted to the Bureau by the authority, except that on county roads, a municipality may submit an application if accompanied by a letter of consent from county officials. This application will enable the Bureau to determine if a traffic control device is warranted.

(c) The application required by (b) above may be submitted on behalf of the authority by an engineer of a private entity, such as a land developer or lot owner, if the application is accompanied by a letter from the authority consenting to the application by the engineer.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).
In (a), added last sentence.
Repeal and New Rule, R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Initial application".

16:27-4.2 Application requirements

(a) The application shall include traffic count data, as follows:

1. For new traffic control signals, the traffic count data shall be consistent with the requirements of the MUTCD; and

2. For existing traffic control signals, the traffic count data (for example, peak-hour counts, eight-hour counts, pedestrian counts, etc., as appropriate) shall be sufficient to justify the proposed design.

(b) The application shall include a crash summary or collision diagram. This information should cover the most recent three-year period and include direction of vehicles, type of crash (right angle, same direction, and so forth), date, time of day, weather conditions and severity of the crashes including injuries and fatalities.

(c) The application shall include a recommendation regarding the installation or modification of a traffic control signal in the form of a certification of the engineer, bearing the engineer's New Jersey Professional Engineer's seal, that:

1. The engineer has conducted an analysis of the data submitted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16:27-4.2(a) and (b);

2. The engineer has conducted an investigation of traffic movements and conditions at the intersection or location of the traffic control signal;

3. The engineer's recommendation is based on the analysis and investigation; and

4. The engineer's recommendation is in the interest of safety and the expedition of traffic on the public highways.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).
In (b), substituted "1" for "NOTE".
Amended by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Information required for initial application". Rewrote (a) and (b); and added (c).

16:27-4.3 Application decision

(a) If upon review of the application, the Bureau finds a traffic control signal is warranted, the Bureau will authorize the applicant to proceed with the design of the traffic control signal.

(b) If upon review of the application, the Bureau finds a traffic control signal is not warranted, the Bureau will so notify the applicant and include in that notification remedial actions needed, if any were identified as part of the review process of the Bureau.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).
Added a new (b); recodified former (b) as (c) and rewrote (c).
Amended by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Method of applying". Rewrote (a) and (b); and deleted (c).

16:27-4.4 Design requirements

(a) Upon receipt of authorization from the Bureau to proceed with the design of a traffic control signal, the engineer may design the traffic control signal. The design shall be in conformance with the MUTCD and shall include the following:

1. A signal layout plan drawn to an appropriate engineering scale containing the following information:

i. Existing details of the physical layout including edge of pavement or curb line, right-of-way lines, channelization, existing traffic controls, driveways, catch basins, sidewalks, corner sight distance restrictions, bus stop locations, parking prohibitions, and so forth. (Specify dimensions.)

ii. Proposed geometric improvements:

(1) Roadway widening;

(2) Corner cutbacks;

(3) Channelization;

(4) Pavement width transitions;

(5) Driveway openings.

iii. Signal equipment:

(1) Pole and pedestal foundation location;

(2) Length of mast arms;

(3) Signal head details shall be illustrated on the plan's Signal Legend;

(4) Location and manner of suspension of signal heads including special details (e.g. special mounting height or mast arm mid-mountings);

(5) Special signal visibility limiting devices and back plates, if any; and

(6) Approximate location and type of detectors including pedestrian push buttons and related signs.

iv. Regulatory and warning signs only:

(1) Locations;

(2) Legends (on other than standard signs, sign and letter sizes will be required);

(3) Operation (if special electrically operated sign).

(4) Parking signs need not be shown.

v. Pavement markings:

(1) Stop lines, lane lines, centerlines, crosswalk lines, pavement edge lines, channelizing lines, word and symbol markings;

(2) Line colors, widths and spacings should be detailed and all lane widths should be dimensioned.

vi. Proposed traffic regulations (limits of regulations clearly indicated on plan):

(1) Parking, stopping or standing, bus stops, loading zones, lane use control and so forth.

(b) The design of a traffic control signal shall include a signal operational schedule and any specific operational notes. The signal operational schedule shall be shown only on a separate document and not on the signal layout plan.

Amended by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Design information required". Rewrote the section.

16:27-4.5 Installation and inspection

(a) Upon completion of the design, the authority may install the traffic control signal.

(b) Upon completion of the installation of the traffic control signal, the engineer shall inspect the final installation for conformance to the design plan, shall note any modifications from the design plan, and shall determine if all modifications, if any, are in conformance with the MUTCD.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Submission".

16:27-4.6 Certification and approval

(a) After the traffic control signal has been designed, installed, and inspected, the authority shall submit to the Bureau:

1. A certification of the engineer bearing the engineer's New Jersey Professional Engineer's seal, stating that:

i. The traffic control signal has been designed in conformance with the MUTCD;

ii. The engineer has inspected the traffic control signal; and

iii. The traffic control signal has been installed in conformance with the design; or, the traffic control signal has been installed in conformance with the design with modifications identified and found to conform to the MUTCD, with reference to the applicable section(s) of the MUTCD;

2. A copy of the as-built plan;

3. A copy of the signal operational schedule; and

4. A certified copy of an adopted ordinance establishing the traffic control signal. (A model traffic signal ordinance is available from the Bureau.) If the signalized intersection involves multiple authorities, each of the authorities having jurisdiction must also submit an ordinance or resolution as appropriate.

(b) Upon receipt of the engineer's certification, the as-built plan found in compliance with the MUTCD, and the adopted signal ordinance and county resolution, if applicable, the Bureau will recommend to the Commissioner the approval of the ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-8.a.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Installation of signal and submission of signal ordinance".

16:27-4.7 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Inspection and approval".

SUBCHAPTER 5. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

16:27-5.1 Requests for information

All requests for information concerning whether or not a specific traffic control device has received the approval of the Commissioner must be submitted in writing to the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations, New Jersey Department of Transportation, PO Box 613, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0613, accompanied by a payment in the amount of $25.00.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).
Amended by R.2006 d.281, effective August 7, 2006.
See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(a), 38 N.J.R. 3179(a).
Section was "Certification of Traffic Control Devices". Deleted "of Transportation" following "Commissioner" and "1035 Parkway Avenue," preceding "PO Box 613".