

## 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.2001 d.68, effective January 25, 2001.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).

## 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 July 24, 2006. See: 38 N.J.R. 1164(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Chapter 27, Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Safety Programs, was repealed and Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, was adopted as new rules by R.1996 d.198, effective April 15, 1996.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 As part of R.2001 d.68, Subchapter 2, Maximum Speed Limit on Highways in New Jersey, was repealed, effective February 20, 2001.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: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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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 Operations, at the New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, PO Box 613, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0613.

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.)".

## SUBCHAPTER 2. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 3. STANDARDS FOR TRAFFIC  
CONTROL DEVICES

## 16:27-3.1 Requirements

(a) Except as provided in N.J.S.A. 39:4-8(b), no traffic control device shall be erected without the approval of the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations, Division of Traffic Operations.

(b) The basic principles concerning the design and usage of traffic control devices are governed by the current "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways," issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. This Manual, adopted by the Federal Highway Administrator as a national standard for the application on all classes of highways, is adopted by reference herein. All Department decisions with regard to traffic control devices shall be based on this Manual as provided for by N.J.S.A. 39:4-120.

(c) All public comments and/or questions about traffic control devices shall be referred to the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations.

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".

## SUBCHAPTER 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

**16:27-4.1 Initial application**

(a) An initial application shall be submitted by the authority having jurisdiction, except that on county roads, a municipality may submit an application if accompanied by a letter of consent from county officials. This initial application will enable the Bureau of Traffic Engineering Investigations to determine if a traffic signal or channelization is warranted before time consuming design work begins. Additional information can be obtained on the New Jersey Department website at [www.state.nj.us/transportation](http://www.state.nj.us/transportation).

(b) If approval is desired for an existing signal which has not previously been approved, an initial application should be submitted.

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.

**16:27-4.2 Information required for initial application**

(a) A minimum eight hour traffic count (preferably taken during the highest volume hours) should be made on any normal weekday. The count should show all vehicular movements, including turns. If pedestrian activity is significant, the number crossing each roadway should be included. The data must be broken down into intervals of no more than one hour each. Fifteen minute breakdowns are desirable during the peak hours.

(b) Accident summary or collision diagram from Police Department records (if available). This information should cover the most recent three year period and include direction of vehicles, type (right angle, same direction, and so forth), date; time of day, weather conditions and severity of accidents.

1. Traffic count and accident summary forms are available upon request from the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations, 1035 Parkway Avenue, PO Box 613, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0613.

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".

**16:27-4.3 Method of applying**

(a) Upon receipt of the information indicated in N.J.A.C. 16:27-4.2, the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations' engineers will review the material and if it is determined that a traffic signal or channelization is warranted, the Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations will authorize the design of the appropriate device.

(b) If it is determined that a traffic signal or channelization is not warranted, the Division of Traffic Operations will so notify the applicant and include in that notification remedial

actions needed, if any were identified as part of their review process.

(c) After the Authorization to Design is issued, the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations shall prepare a signal and/or channelization design. The authority having jurisdiction over the intersection must concur with this design.

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).

**16:27-4.4 Design information required**

(a) A reproducible tracing of a signal and/or channelization layout plan preferably drawn to a scale of 1 inch = 20 feet (1 inch = 10 feet and 1 inch = 30 feet are also acceptable) and containing the following information:

1. Existing details of the physical layout including edge of pavement or curbline, right-of-way lines, channelization, existing traffic controls, driveways, catch basins, side-walks, corner sight distance restrictions, bus stop locations, parking prohibitions, and so forth. (Specify dimensions.)
2. Geometric improvements:
  - i. Roadway widening;
  - ii. Corner cutbacks;
  - iii. Channelization;
  - iv. Pavement width transitions;
  - v. Driveway openings.
3. Signal equipment:
  - i. Pole and pedestal location;
  - ii. Length of mast arms;
  - iii. Other than standard three section signal heads should be illustrated on the plan;
  - iv. Location and manner of suspension of signal heads;
  - v. Special signal visibility limiting devices, approximate location and type of detectors and back plates, if any.
4. Signs:
  - i. Locations;
  - ii. Legends (on other than standard signs, sign and letter sizes will be required);
  - iii. Operation (if special electrically operated sign).

NOTE:—Parking signs need not be shown.

**5. Pavement markings:**

- i. Top lines, lane lines, center lines, crosswalk lines, pavement edge lines, channelizing lines, word and symbol markings;
- ii. All lane widths should be dimensioned.

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

- i. Parking, stopping or standing, bus stops, loading zones, lane use control and so forth.

(b) Signal timing schedule and, where applicable, special signal sequence charts, length of vehicle interval and assignment and hours of flashing operation. If desired, this signal timing information can be shown on the signal layout plan, thereby eliminating a separate document.

**16:27-4.5 Submission**

(a) One of the following methods shall be used in preparing and submitting the signal design:

1. The design, including all the information set forth in N.J.A.C. 16:27-4.4, shall be submitted along with a certification from the municipal or county engineer (or the municipal or county traffic engineer) bearing his or her New Jersey Professional Engineer's seal stating that the design conforms with State law requirements and, except where prohibited by State law, conforms with the current "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways." Upon receipt of such a certified design, the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations will authorize the installation. (This method was developed to take advantage of the qualified traffic engineers employed by some jurisdictions.); or

2. A preliminary design may be submitted by the municipality or county along with a letter requesting the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations to review the design. Liaison will be maintained with local officials to insure that the final design conforms to State law requirements and, where possible, the current "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways."

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).  
Deleted (a)3 and the NOTE at the end of the section.

**16:27-4.6 Installation of signal and submission of signal ordinance**

(a) Having obtained the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations' authorization, local officials may proceed with the installation, modification or revamping of the traffic signal.

(b) Upon completion of the authorized signal work, local officials should prepare a traffic signal ordinance (a model traffic signal ordinance is available for inspection at the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey). If the signalized intersection involves a county roadway, it is necessary that the municipality must also obtain a resolution of consent from the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The proposed municipal ordinance, and county resolution of consent from the Board of Chosen Freeholders, if applicable, must be submitted to the Manager, Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations for approval.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).

**16:27-4.7 Inspection and approval**

(a) The following methods shall be used to insure that the signal installation conforms with the authorized design:

1. After the installation is completed, and before it is placed in operation, responsible officials must notify the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations and request an inspection; or the responsible professional engineer should forward a letter certifying that the installation has been inspected by him or her, or a member of his or her staff, and conforms with the authorized design.
2. When the installation conforms to the authorized design, and the various regulations set forth in the design have been approved, the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations will recommend approval of the appropriate signal ordinance and/or resolution.

Amended by R.2001 d.68, effective February 20, 2001.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 4237(a), 33 N.J.R. 683(b).

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**SUBCHAPTER 5. CERTIFICATIONS**

**16:27-5.1 Certification of Traffic Control Devices**

All requests for information concerning whether or not a specific traffic control device has received the approval of the Commissioner of Transportation must be submitted in writing to the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Investigations, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, 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).