

CHAPTER 41C**ROADSIDE SIGN CONTROL AND
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 27:1A-5, 27:1A-6, and the Roadside Sign Control and Outdoor Advertising Act, N.J.S.A. 27:5-5 et seq. (P.L. 1991, c.413).

Source and Effective Date

R.1997 d.77, effective January 23, 1997.
See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1c, the expiration date of Chapter 41C, Roadside Sign Control and Outdoor Advertising, was extended from January 23, 2002 to July 22, 2002. See: 33 N.J.R. 2625(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Rules on outdoor advertising, formerly codified at N.J.A.C. 16:41-8 and 16:41A, were repealed and replaced by N.J.A.C. 16:41C, Roadside Sign Control and Outdoor Advertising, by R.1992 d.206, effective May 4, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 695(a), 24 N.J.R. 1807(a). Petition for Rulemaking: Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking. See: 25 N.J.R. 1895(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 41C was re-adopted as R.1997 d.77, effective January 23, 1997. See: Source and Effective Date. As part of R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997), Subchapter 1, Definitions, was recodified as Subchapter 2; Subchapter 2, General Provisions, was recodified as Subchapter 1, Declaration of Policy; Subchapter 3, Restrictions, was repealed and a new Subchapter 3, Restrictions, was adopted as new rules; Subchapter 5, Permits, was renamed Signs and Permits; Subchapter 7, Vegetation Control, was renamed Vegetation Control: Obstruction of Signs; and Subchapter 9, Nonconforming Sign Structures, was renamed Nonconforming Signs. See, also, section annotations.

CHAPTER TABLE OF CONTENTS**SUBCHAPTER 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY**

16:41C-1.1 Purpose

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

16:41C-2.1 Definitions
16:41C-2.2 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 3. RESTRICTIONS

16:41C-3.1 General restrictions

SUBCHAPTER 4. LICENSE PROVISIONS

16:41C-4.1 When license required
16:41C-4.2 Bond for non-resident
16:41C-4.3 License expiration date

SUBCHAPTER 5. SIGNS AND PERMITS

16:41C-5.1 Types of signs allowed
16:41C-5.2 Permit requirements
16:41C-5.3 Permit applications
16:41C-5.4 Alteration of permit area
16:41C-5.5 Permit holders
16:41C-5.6 Appeal of denial of application

SUBCHAPTER 6. FEES

16:41C-6.1 Permit application fees
16:41C-6.2 Permit fees
16:41C-6.3 Renewal of permits and late renewal charges
16:41C-6.4 Fee for name or ownership change

**SUBCHAPTER 7. VEGETATION CONTROL:
OBSTRUCTION OF SIGNS**

16:41C-7.1 Vegetation control; remediation of obstructions

SUBCHAPTER 8. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

16:41C-8.1 General requirements
16:41C-8.2 Directional signs
16:41C-8.3 Public utility signs
16:41C-8.4 Service club and religious notices
16:41C-8.5 Signs on bus stop shelters
16:41C-8.6 On-premise signs
16:41C-8.7 Off-premise signs
16:41C-8.8 Multiple message signs
16:41C-8.9 through 16:41C-8.10 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 9. NONCONFORMING SIGNS

16:41C-9.1 General provisions

SUBCHAPTER 10. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

16:41C-10.1 Notice, protests and hearings
16:41C-10.2 Causes for revocation of license or permit
16:41C-10.3 Removal provisions
16:41C-10.4 Penalties

SUBCHAPTER 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY**16:41C-1.1 Purpose**

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to balance the need to control and regulate roadside signs and outdoor advertising, promote the scenic beauty of the State, provide for the safety and convenience of the public, and the need to stimulate economic and commercial activity within the State of New Jersey. This chapter requires and provides for the issuing of licenses and permits for roadside signs and outdoor advertising and the establishment, use, maintenance and removal of such signs.

(b) Consistent with Federal law, the State Act and the Agreement as presently existing and hereafter amended, the Commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules, in a manner consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act, governing outdoor advertising including spacing, size, lighting and other requirements pertaining to the issuance or denial of permits for the erection or maintenance of outdoor advertising signs along limited access and non-limited access highways, prescribing the number, locations and types of and specifications for outdoor advertising signs, and designating the conditions under which outdoor advertising signs may be erected and maintained.

(c) Consistent with the State Act, the Commissioner is authorized to charge and collect fees for the issuance of permits and related costs. The moneys received from such fees shall be deposited with the State Treasurer, and be subject to disbursement on order of the Commissioner to defray the expense of administering the provisions of this chapter.

(d) The Commissioner is authorized to designate certain roadside areas as "safety rest areas" or "informational sites" and to provide by rules for the erection and maintenance of signs in such areas.

(e) The Commissioner is authorized to acquire by gift, purchase or condemnation, real and personal property or the right to maintain outdoor advertising signs in any protected area or protected zone of limited access and non-limited access highways for the purpose of implementing the rules in this chapter. All persons whose property is purchased or otherwise acquired, except by gift to the State of New Jersey, shall receive just compensation therefor.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

In (a), added text "of such signs" at end; in (b) substituted "Federal law . . . and hereafter amended" for "the Act and Outdoor Advertising Act" and "advertising signs along" for "advertising signs within protected areas"; substantially amended (c); and in (e), inserted text "or protected zone".

Case Notes

Advertising sign in area of federal interstate system was subject to state zoning regulation. *New York Outdoor v. Department of Transportation*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 21.

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

16:41C-2.1 Definitions

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

"Abandoned" means any sign which has not had an advertisement on it, or the advertisement is in need of repair, or the structure is missing components necessary for an advertisement for a period of three months. A sign in good repair containing the message "available" or other similar sales information shall not be considered abandoned.

"Administrator" means the Administrator of Outdoor Advertising of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Advertisement" means any message placed on a sign.

"Advertising structure" means any rigid or semi-rigid material, with or without advertisement displayed thereon, situated upon or attached to real property outdoors, primarily or principally for the purpose of furnishing a background or base or support upon which an advertisement may be displayed.

"Advertising surface area" means the total surface area of a sign face as measured by the smallest rectangle which will encompass the entire area as indicated on the approved application and permit. All dimensions include border, trim and cutouts, but exclude decorative bases and supports.

"Agreement" means the Agreement between the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the Department establishing size, spacing and lighting standards for effective control of outdoor advertising signs along interstate and Federal aid primary highways as adopted in 1971 and as may be subsequently amended.

"Atlantic City Casino-Recreation District" means that area within the city limits of the City of Atlantic City which is zoned RS-C (Resort Commercial Development District), RS (Resort Service), CBD (Central Business District), URT (Urban Renewal Tract) or Beach (boardwalk) as defined by the City of Atlantic City.

"Business of outdoor advertising" means the display of an advertisement in exchange for any compensation or item or service of value by any person through the erection, use or maintenance of a sign.

"Commercial or industrial activities for purposes of un-zoned commercial or industrial areas" means those activities generally recognized as commercial or industrial by zoning authorities in this State, except that none of the following activities shall be considered commercial or industrial:

1. Outdoor advertising signs;
2. Agricultural, forestry, ranching, grazing, farming and related activities, including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce stands;
3. Transient or temporary activities;
4. Activities not visible from the main traveled way;
5. Activities more than 660 feet (201.2 meters) from the nearest edge of the right of way;
6. Activities conducted in a building primarily used as a residence; and
7. Railroad tracks and minor sidings.

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

"Customary maintenance" means all manner of reasonable repair or maintenance of a sign, including replacement of worn or damaged portions of the structure.

“Cutouts/extensions” means any attachment or addition to the advertising surface area that increases or enhances the advertisement on the sign. Cutouts/extensions shall be included in calculating the advertising surface area of a sign.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

“Directional signs” means signs containing directional information about publicly owned places, natural phenomena, historic, cultural, scientific, educational, and religious sites; or areas of natural scenic beauty or naturally suited for outdoor recreation, deemed, by the Commissioner, to be in the interest of the traveling public.

“Embellishments” means objects, such as letters, figures or other devices attached to the advertising surface area of a sign which create a three-dimensional effect but do not extend beyond the vertical or horizontal planes of the advertising surface area.

“Federal law” means Section 131 of Title 23, United States Code (1965) (23 U.S.C. § 131), commonly referred to as Title 1 or the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, as amended and hereafter amended, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

“Federal-aid primary highway” means any highway within that portion of the State highway system as designated or as may hereafter be so designated by the State, which has been approved by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 103 of Title 23, United States Code.

“Ground structure” means any advertising structure or display erected upon the ground, however supported thereon.

“Highway” means any road, thoroughfare, street, boulevard, lane, court, trailway, right-of-way or easement used for, or laid out and intended for public passage of vehicles or people.

“Incorporated municipalities” means cities, towns, townships, villages, boroughs and any other municipal corporations of this State.

“Interchange” means a junction of two or more highways with one or more grade separations that allows for the movement of traffic between such highways.

“Interstate System” means those highways constructed within this State and approved by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States as an official portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, “Highways” of the United States Code, as amended.

“Licensee” means any person, as defined by these rules, who is the holder of any valid and unrevoked license to engage in outdoor advertising business in this State.

“Limited access highway” means a highway, or any portion thereof, especially designed for through traffic, over which abutters have no easement or right of light, air or direct access by reason of the fact that their property abuts upon such limited access highway. For purposes of these rules, interstate highways, parkways, expressways and freeways, including, but not limited to, the Atlantic City Expressway, the Garden State Parkway, and the New Jersey Turnpike, shall be considered limited access highways.

“Main-traveled way” means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. In the case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each separate roadway carrying through traffic in opposite directions is a main-traveled way. The main-traveled way shall not include frontage roads, turning roadways, or parking areas.

“Modernize” means either to alter, reconfigure, or replace an advertising structure with new or different materials without increasing the number of supporting uprights or the advertising surface area.

“Multiple message sign” means a sign, which changes message or copy electronically or by the movement or rotation of panels or slats.

“Nonconforming sign” means a sign which fails to comply with the requirements of the State Act and any rules promulgated pursuant thereto, and which had been lawfully erected, pursuant to a valid outdoor advertising permit, and maintained prior to the enactment, revision, or amendment of the State Act and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

“Official signs and notices” means signs and notices erected and maintained by public officers or public agencies within their territorial or zoning jurisdiction and pursuant to and in accordance with direction or authorization contained in Federal, State, or local law for the purposes of carrying out an official duty or responsibility. Historical markers authorized by State law and erected by State or local government agencies or nonprofit historical societies may be considered official signs.

“On-premise sign” means a sign which identifies a principal activity, product or service which is conducted, available, offered or produced on the property where the sign is located including a sign which exclusively advertises the sale or lease of the property on which the sign is located. When a sign consists principally of brand name or trade name advertising and the product or service advertised is only incidental to the principal activity; or when it brings rental income to the property owner, the sign shall be considered an off-premise sign used for the purpose of the business of outdoor advertising.

“Permit” means a certificate issued by the Department authorizing the erection and maintenance of a sign at the location described thereon. The issuance of an outdoor advertising permit does not supersede municipal or other agency sign requirements or restrictions.

“Permit holder” means any person holding a valid and unrevoked outdoor advertising permit.

“Permitted location” means a place, spot, site or space for which an outdoor advertising permit has been duly issued for the erection or maintenance of a sign without regard to whether the same has actually been constructed, painted or posted.

“Person” means any individual, group, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, any public entity, as the context may require, or combination thereof.

“Premises” means that portion of the property wherein any industry, commerce, business, occupation, trade or service is conducted.

“Primary system” means any highway on the National Highway System as defined by the U.S. Congress, or any highway on the Federal-aid primary system in existence on June 1, 1991, as enacted in the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, as amended.

“Protected areas” means all areas inside the boundaries of this State which are adjacent to and within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways in the Interstate and Primary Systems, and those areas inside the boundaries of this State which are outside urban areas and visible from such highways but beyond 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways not in the Interstate and Primary Systems.

“Protected zones” means all areas inside the boundaries of this State which are adjacent to and within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways not in the Interstate and Primary Systems, and those areas inside the boundaries of this State which are outside urban areas and visible from such highways but beyond 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways not in the Interstate and Primary Systems.

“Public service signs” means signs located off the Department’s right-of-way or on school bus stop shelters, which are authorized or approved by city, county or State law, regulation or ordinance, and at places approved by the city, county or State agency controlling the highway involved.

“Public utility signs” means warning signs, information signs, notices or markers which are customarily erected and maintained by publicly or privately owned public utilities, as essential to their operations.

“Religious notice signs” see “service club and religious notices.”

“Safety rest area” means an area or site established and maintained within or adjacent to the highway right-of-way and under public supervision or control, for the convenience of the traveling public.

“Scenic area” means any public park or area of scenic beauty or historical significance, as designated by the Commissioner of Transportation or other State agency having and exercising such control.

“Scenic byway” means any highway or portion thereof that has been nominated and designated as a scenic byway by the Department.

“Service club and religious notices” means signs and notices whose erection is authorized by law, relating to the meetings of nonprofit service clubs or charitable associations, or religious services.

“Sign” means any structure including, but not limited to, an advertising structure and sign face used outdoors and affixed to or upon property to display messages and/or images within public view which is designed to attract, or does attract, the attention of pedestrians or operators or passengers of motor vehicles using the roads, highways, and other public thoroughfares and places, and shall include any writing, printing, painting, display, emblem, drawing, or other device whether placed on the ground, rocks, trees, tree stumps or other natural structures, or on a building, structure, signboard, billboard, wallboard, roofboard, frame, support, fence, or elsewhere, and any lighting or other accessories used in conjunction therewith.

“Space or sign face” means the advertising surface area used or to be used for each advertisement. A double face sign is deemed to have two spaces.

“State Act” means the Roadside Sign Control and Outdoor Advertising Act, P.L. 1991, c.413.

“Thickly settled district” means a commercial or industrial zoned or unzoned area where business buildings or houses are less than 200 feet (61 meters) apart along the highway for at least one-quarter mile (402.3 meters). Each side of the highway shall be determined separately.

“Trade name” means the brand name, trademark, distinctive symbol or any other device used to identify particular products or services.

“Unzoned commercial or industrial areas” means those areas which are not zoned by State or local law, rule or ordinance, and on which there are located one or more permanent structures devoted to commercial or industrial activity or on which a commercial or industrial activity is actually conducted, whether or not a permanent structure is located thereon, and the area along the highway extending outward 800 feet (243.8 meters) from and beyond the edge of such activity. Each side of the highway will be considered separately in applying this definition. All measurements shall be from the outer edges of the regularly used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing and landscaped areas of the commercial or industrial activities, not from the property lines of the activities, and shall be along or parallel to the edge or pavement of the highway. The granting of a use or any other variance by a local zoning or governing body shall not change the zoning of the property as defined in these rules.

“Urban area” means a place designated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as having a population of 5,000 or more within boundaries to be fixed by responsible State and local officials in cooperation with each other, subject to approval by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States. The boundaries shall, at a minimum, encompass the entire place designated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

“Visible” means the advertisement can be seen and comprehended without visual aid by persons traveling in the motor vehicle on the highway.

“V-type construction” means a single structure having two faces in the shape of the letter “V” when viewed from above, with the faces oriented in opposite directions.

“Zoned commercial or industrial areas” means those areas which are zoned for business, industry, commerce, office, or trade pursuant to a State or local zoning ordinance or rule, or those areas other than areas exclusively zoned for residential, agricultural, forest, conservation, recreation, education or preservation where the prevalent land use is business, industry, commerce, office or trade. The granting of a use or any other variance by a municipal zoning board of adjustment or governing body shall not change the zoning of the property as defined in these rules.

Emergency Amendment, R.1993 d.652, effective November 17, 1993 (to expire January 16, 1994).

See: 25 N.J.R. 5699(a).

Adopted Concurrent Proposal, R.1994 d.76, effective January 14, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5699(a), 26 N.J.R. 823(c).

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Added, deleted, or amended numerous definitions.

16:41C-2.2 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was “License and permit effectiveness and expiration date”.

SUBCHAPTER 3. RESTRICTIONS

16:41C-3.1 General restrictions

(a) Signs which contain, include or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, scrolling or moving light or lights shall be prohibited, except those giving time, date and/or temperature.

(b) A permit for a new or enlarged sign shall not be issued if such permit would conflict with public policy relating to roadside signs or outdoor advertising as declared by the Congress of the United States, or as reflected in the statutory enactments and judicial decisions of this State. In determining whether such public policy is contravened, the Department shall consider the law of this State, and the

United States, including the Highway Beautification Act, the Outdoor Advertising Act, and these regulations.

(c) Except where specifically authorized by the Department, no outdoor advertising signs shall be erected or maintained within the Department’s right-of-way of any portion of limited access or non-limited access highways within the State of New Jersey. This prohibition shall not apply to signs, public notices or markers erected or maintained by the Department of Transportation.

(d) No outdoor advertising sign shall interfere with the ability of the operator of a motor vehicle to have a clear and unobstructed view of streets or highways ahead, approaching, merging or intersecting traffic, or official signs, signals or traffic control devices.

(e) No outdoor advertising sign shall interfere with or contain advertisements that resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device.

(f) No outdoor advertising sign shall be painted, drawn, erected or maintained upon trees, rocks, other natural features, or public utility poles.

(g) No outdoor advertising sign shall be of such a type, size, or character or placed at a location that will endanger or injure public safety, or health, or pose a physical threat to property in the vicinity thereof.

(h) No outdoor advertising sign shall be permitted which advertises activities that are illegal under Federal, State or local law in effect at the location of those signs or at the location of those activities.

(i) No outdoor advertising sign shall be permitted which has any animated or moving parts or has reflectorized materials which may impair the vision of a motorist.

(j) No off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be erected along or be visible to the Garden State Parkway.

(k) No off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be erected along or be visible to that portion of the New Jersey Turnpike not incorporated into the Federal Aid Interstate Highway System.

SUBCHAPTER 4. LICENSE PROVISIONS

16:41C-4.1 When license required

(a) Any person who engages in the business of outdoor advertising is required to obtain a license.

(b) An application for a license shall be obtained from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Outdoor Advertising.

(c) The annual fee for an outdoor advertising license shall be as follows:

Number of Sign Faces	Annual Fee
0-50	\$250.00
51 and over	\$500.00

(d) A late charge of \$50.00, in addition to the regular fee, shall be imposed for an application for renewal of an outdoor advertising license postmarked after May 1.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section combined with former N.J.A.C. 16:41C-4.2 and substantially amended.

16:41C-4.2 Bond for non-resident

If a licensee does not reside in New Jersey or is a foreign corporation not authorized to do business in this State, it shall file with its application a bond of \$5,000 in favor of the State satisfactory to the Commissioner and issued by an approved surety, conditioned upon the observing and fulfilling by the applicant of all the provisions of the law and the rules contained in this chapter. Upon default in the condition of such bond, appropriate action shall be taken to enforce the collection thereof in a court of competent jurisdiction. A bond shall remain in full force and effect so long as any obligation to the State in such license shall remain unsatisfied.

Recodified from 16:41C-4.4 and amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Former section, "Applications and fees", merged into N.J.A.C. 16:41C-4.1.

16:41C-4.3 License expiration date

Unless revoked or canceled, all licenses will expire on May 15 following the date of issuance or renewal. An application for renewal of a license shall be made to the Department on or before May 1 immediately preceding the expiration date.

Repeal and New Rule, R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was "Duration".

SUBCHAPTER 5. SIGNS AND PERMITS

16:41C-5.1 Types of signs allowed

(a) The following signs are allowed in accordance with this chapter and require the issuance and maintenance of a permit:

1. Directional signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.2);

2. Service club signs and religious notices (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.4);

3. Public service signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.5);

4. Off-premise signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.7); and

5. Multiple message signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.8).

(b) The following signs are allowed in accordance with this chapter, but do not require the issuance of a permit:

1. On-premise signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.6);

2. Public utility signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.3); and

3. Official signs and notices.

(c) No sign shall be erected or maintained that is visible from the main-traveled way of any portion of limited access or non-limited access highways except those allowed in (a) and (b) above.

(d) As authorized under N.J.S.A. 27:5-11c in those instances where the Commissioner deems it to be in the public interest, he or she may issue a permit for a sign on a public property which would not otherwise be allowed by the State Act and pursuant to this chapter and impose conditions as he or she deems appropriate. Requests for waivers from the sign requirements of this chapter shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In approving waivers, the Commissioner shall weigh the benefit to the public, evaluate the need for the sign, assure the public safety, and remain in compliance with Federal rules and the 1971 Federal Agreement.

Repeal and New Rule, R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was "Types of signs permitted".

Case Notes

Commissioner of Transportation's action in issuing permit for outdoor advertising sign was arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable; Commissioner gave no weight to state expressway authority's experts, who painstakingly described high volume and dangerous quality of traffic in vicinity of proposed site, noting numerous hazardous maneuvers made by motorist using exit, dangerous quality of expressway-parkway interchange, and fact that a motorist's view of the exit ramp was obstructed until it passed under an overpass, as well as describing existing traffic signs at or near proposed billboard which would demand a motorist's attention. *Philadelphia Outdoor v. New Jersey Expressway Authority*, 221 N.J.Super. 207, 534 A.2d 77 (A.D.1987) appeal dismissed 114 N.J. 470, 555 A.2d 598.

16:41C-5.2 Permit requirements

(a) Except where a permit is not required by this chapter, each person shall obtain a permit from the Department for each sign before its erection, maintenance or use.

(b) No permit issued to a person required to obtain a license pursuant to this chapter shall be valid unless the license of such person is in full force and effect.

(c) Unless revoked or canceled, a permit shall be in force from the date issued to the following May 15.

(d) If the name or address of a permit holder changes, written notice of the change shall be filed with the Department's Office of Outdoor Advertising within 30 days of the change.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Rewrote (a); in (c), inserted reference to canceled permits; and added (d).

Case Notes

Outdoor advertising billboard was not within protection of nonconforming use at location. *Rosentock v. Department of Transportation*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 9.

Outdoor advertising sign within 2000 feet of skyway interchange was in violation of controlling, more restrictive state regulations. *New York Outdoor v. Department of Transportation*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 1, affirmed 95 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 21.

Sign with no clear access to gas station was in violation of proscription against off-premises advertising. *New Jersey v. Star Enterprises*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 13.

Football billboard posed no danger to traveling public and was proper subject of permit. *Gannett v. Turnpike Authority*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 1.

16:41C-5.3 Permit applications

(a) An application for a permit shall be obtained from and submitted to the Office of Outdoor Advertising.

(b) Each application shall specify the location where the sign is to be erected and maintained. If, after approval of such application and issuance of a permit, the sign is removed or placed in a different location from the approved location, such permit shall be subject to revocation.

(c) A single application shall cover a double-faced, back-to-back, side-by-side or V-type sign. The fee charged will be for the total advertising surface area at that location.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended section.

16:41C-5.4 Alteration of permit area

(a) Multiple message signs are limited to the restrictions of N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.8.

(b) When a permittee desires to enlarge or reconfigure the dimensions of the advertising surface area of a sign, an application for a new permit shall be made and the applicable application and permit fees shall be paid.

(c) Embellishments may be added to, or made a part of, any permitted outdoor advertising sign without further application to the Office of Outdoor Advertising.

(d) Cutouts and/or extensions may be added to an existing conforming sign, provided the sign's permit authorizes an area equal to or larger than the smallest rectangle enclosing the sign and all cutouts. The area of the sign including cutouts shall not exceed 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters) for ground mounted signs or 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters) for wall or roof mounted signs. The advertising surface of the sign, including cutouts, shall not exceed 25 feet (7.6 meters) in height (30 feet (9.1 meters) for wall or roof mounted signs) or 60 feet (18.3 meters) in width.

1. When cutouts are added to signs with back-ups, their back side shall be painted to blend in with the existing backdrop.

2. The dimension of conforming signs authorized by a permit of 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters) (1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters) for wall or roof) or less will be allowed to vary in order to accommodate cutouts and/or extensions. Up to an additional 2.5 feet (0.76 meters) will be allowed on either side as well as 5.5 feet (1.68 meters) on the top and two feet (0.61 meters) on the bottom of the existing sign providing all additions are within the rectangular envelope authorized by the sign's permit.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

In (a), amended N.J.A.C. reference; in (b), substituted "or reconfigure the dimensions of the advertising" for "the"; and rewrote (c) and (d).

16:41C-5.5 Permit holders

(a) The name of the permittee and the application number of the sign shall be placed in a conspicuous location on the sign structure so that it is visible from the highway to which it advertises. The minimum size letters and numbers to be used shall be at least two inches (5.1 centimeters) high. The name and number shall be installed within 30 days after issuance of the permit or the erection of the sign, whichever is sooner, except as specified in (b) below.

(b) If a ground structure is not built within 60 days of the date of issuance of the permit, the permittee shall place a sign 10 inches by 24 inches (25.4 centimeters by 61 centimeters) at the site parallel to the roadway and within 10 feet (three meters) of the right-of-way line. If the property of the proposed site is not adjacent to the right-of-way line, the sign shall be placed as near as possible to the right-of-way line. The sign shall be fabricated on aluminum, fiberglass or approved equal with two inch (5.1 centimeters) black letters on a white background. It shall contain the name of the permit holder and application number for the sign. The sign shall be mounted on a post at a height seven feet (2.1 meters) above ground.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

In (a), inserted text "so that it is visible . . . shall be installed"; in (b), amended dimension and distance references, inserted text "If the property . . . right-of-way line.", and deleted "steel" preceding "post".

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).
See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

16:41C-5.6 Appeal of denial of application

(a) If an application for an outdoor advertising permit is denied, the applicant shall accept that determination or within 30 days file with the Administrator a written protest signed by the protestor or a duly authorized agent stating the reason for the protest. The protest may include a request for an informal hearing, a formal hearing, or both.

(b) If requested in the protest, the Administrator shall schedule an informal hearing within the Department. When a formal hearing is requested, the Administrator shall transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law within 30 days of receiving the request or, when an informal hearing is also requested, within 15 days of the date of decision concluding an informal hearing. Formal hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

New Rule, R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).
See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

SUBCHAPTER 6. FEES

16:41C-6.1 Permit application fees

(a) A \$50.00 application fee shall be submitted with each new application for an off-premise outdoor advertising permit for a sign with a proposed advertising surface area of 100 square feet (9.3 square meters) or less.

(b) A \$200.00 application fee shall be submitted with each new application for an off-premise outdoor advertising permit for a sign with a proposed advertising surface area exceeding 100 square feet (9.3 square meters).

(c) No application fee will be charged for a change of name or address or no fee permits.

(d) No refund will be made after an application for a permit has been filed.

(e) If an outdoor advertising sign is erected or modified prior to the submission of an application or the issuance of a permit for same, the following late application charges shall be imposed in addition to the regular fees:

When the Annual Fee Is Over	But Not More Than	Late Filing Charge Is
\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
\$ 50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
\$100.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
\$150.00		\$200.00

16:41C-6.2 Permit fees

(a) If an application for an off-premise advertising permit is approved, the permit fee shall be submitted, with any other required fees, within 30 days of being noticed of such approval. If the fees are not submitted within 30 days, the application shall be canceled unless the applicant did not receive a billing from the Department, or the applicant can produce documentation to support that they are attempting to comply with the fee submittal.

(b) The annual permit fee for each sign requiring a permit will be based upon the size of the approved advertising surface area as follows:

Advertising Surface Area
In Square Feet (Square Meters)

Over	Not More Than	Annual Fee
0	100 (9.3)	\$ 20.00
100 (9.3)	300 (27.9)	\$ 60.00
300 (27.9)	600 (55.8)	\$150.00
600 (55.8)	1,000 (93)	\$400.00
1,000 (93)		\$550.00

(c) A no fee permit shall be issued to veterans, religious, charitable or civil organizations, providing the signs are erected and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and advertising space is not being sold or leased.

(d) A no fee permit shall be granted for directional signs as detailed in N.J.A.C. 16:41C-5.1. An application for a no fee permit shall be obtained from and returned to the Office of Outdoor Advertising.

1. No fee permits shall continue to be valid provided the sign remains in conformance with the original terms and conditions of the permit application.

2. Before a no fee permit is issued, the sign must be in conformance with the applicable provisions of the law and this chapter. The permit is subject to the same terms and conditions regarding revocation set forth in this chapter.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).
See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended (a); in (b), inserted "approved" preceding "advertising surface area" and amended fee table; and substantially amended (d).

16:41C-6.3 Renewal of permits and late renewal charges

(a) Permits for signs erected and maintained with a valid permit shall be renewed annually unless the permit has been revoked pursuant to this chapter.

(b) If the returned invoice and payment for the renewal of a permit are received after the expiration date of the last valid permit, a \$20.00 reinstatement charge for each permit shall be imposed in addition to the regular fee.

(c) A permittee who chooses not to renew a permit shall notify the Office of Outdoor Advertising in writing and remove the entire sign not later than the expiration date of the permit.

(d) Extensions of time to submit renewal invoices and payments shall only be granted if the Department has not mailed out the invoices by March 20.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended (a); deleted (b); recodified former (c) and (d) as (b) and (c); in (b) substituted single fee for multiple fee levels; in (c), inserted notification provision and inserted text "entire"; and added new (d).

16:41C-6.4 Fee for name or ownership change

(a) A permit holder who wishes to change the name under which he or she is conducting business shall submit a completed application to the Department at no fee within 60 days of the change.

(b) An individual or business that acquires a currently valid permitted location from another permit holder shall submit a completed application to the Department with a \$10.00 administrative fee for each location within 30 days of the change.

New Rule, R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

SUBCHAPTER 7. VEGETATION CONTROL: OBSTRUCTION OF SIGNS

16:41C-7.1 Vegetation control; remediation of obstructions

(a) Adjustment, alteration or removal of existing landscape within the Department's right-of-way to restore or enhance visibility of a sign is permitted if accomplished pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16:41.

(b) If an existing conforming sign is no longer visible because of a natural or man-made obstruction within the right-of-way, the sign may be moved or altered to restore visibility upon application to and approval from the Office of Outdoor Advertising.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Rewrote section.

SUBCHAPTER 8. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

16:41C-8.1 General requirements

(a) A sign is subject to the requirements of its type as indicated in this subchapter. In those cases where a sign is erected or proposed to be erected, so that it is visible to more than one highway, the requirements for each highway shall apply.

(b) A sign shall be in conformance with the conditions set forth in its permit and the requirements set forth below:

1. Illumination of signs shall be shielded so as to prevent light from being directed at any portion of the main-traveled way of any highway, or shall be of such low intensity or brilliance as not to cause glare or impair the vision of operators of motor vehicles on any highway, or otherwise impair the operation of a motor vehicle. All such lighting shall also be subject to any other provision relating to lighting of signs applicable to highways under the jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey.

2. All signs shall be kept in a safe and well-maintained condition with due regard for climate, weather and terrain.

3. The advertising surface area of any sign affixed to or painted upon the wall of any building or a structure, other than an outdoor advertising structure, shall be stationary. The advertising surface area of a wall sign shall be defined by a contrasting border or paint color that readily distinguishes the advertising surface area from the remaining part of the wall.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

In (a), inserted reference to proposed signs and substituted "requirements for each highway shall apply" for "more stringent requirements shall be applicable"; and added (b).

16:41C-8.2 Directional signs

(a) Activities or attractions eligible for directional signing shall be limited to natural wonders, scenic attractions, historical attractions, educational, cultural, scientific and religious institutions or activities, and outdoor recreational areas.

(b) To be eligible, privately-owned attractions or activities must be nationally or regionally known and of outstanding interest to the traveling public. Final determination of eligibility shall be made by the Commissioner.

(c) The message on directional signs shall be limited to the identification of the attraction or activity and directional information which is useful to the traveler in locating the attraction. Superfluous information or pictorial or photographic representation of the activity or its environs shall be prohibited.

(d) Directional signs shall not exceed 20 feet (6.1 meters) in length, width or height, or 150 square feet (14 square meters) in area including border, trim, cutouts and extensions, but excluding decorative bases and supports.

(e) Each location of a directional sign shall be submitted to the Administrator for approval.

(f) A directional sign shall not be located within 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) of an interchange or intersection at grade along a limited access highway.

(g) Directional signs shall not be located within 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) of any of the following areas or sites which are adjacent to limited access highways or within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of any of the following areas or sites which are adjacent to non-limited access highways:

1. Scenic areas designated as such by the Commissioner or other State agency having and exercising such authority;
2. Safety rest areas; or
3. Informational sites.

(h) No two directional signs facing the same direction of travel shall be spaced less than one mile (1.6 kilometers) apart.

(i) Not more than three directional signs pertaining to the same activity and facing the same direction shall be erected along a single route approaching the activity.

(j) Directional signs on limited access highways shall be within 75 miles (120.7 kilometers) of the activity and directional signs on non-limited access highways shall be within 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) of the activity.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Inserted metric references throughout; deleted (e) and (f); recodified former (g) through (l) as (e) through (j); in (e), substituted "Administrator" for "Commissioner"; in (g), inserted text "Directional" and "which are adjacent to non-limited access highways".

16:41C-8.3 Public utility signs

(a) The Commissioner shall determine the size, spacing, lighting, location and the number of public utility signs, notices or markers on limited access and non-limited access highways, essential to the operation of a public utility installation.

(b) In no event shall public utility signs exceed 10 feet (3 meters) in length, width or height or 100 square feet (9.3 square meters) in area, including border, trim, cutouts and extensions, but excluding decorative bases and supports.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Inserted metric references.

16:41C-8.4 Service club and religious notices

(a) No more than one service club or religious sign or notice shall be erected on each side of a highway.

(b) Such signs shall be located no further than two miles (3.2 kilometers) from the organization or activity and shall not exceed eight square feet (0.74 square meters) in area.

(c) No sign shall be located within 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) of an interchange or intersection at grade along a limited access highway (measured along the highway from the nearest point of the beginning or ending of pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main traveled way).

(d) No sign shall be located within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of any of the following areas or sites adjacent to the highway:

1. Scenic areas designated as such by the Commissioner or other State agency authorized to make such determinations;
2. Safety rest areas; or
3. Informational sites.

(e) Double-faced, back-to-back or V-type signs shall be prohibited.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Inserted metric references throughout; substantially amended (c); deleted (d); recodified former (e) and (f) as (d) and (e).

16:41C-8.5 Signs on bus stop shelters

(a) No public service signs on bus stop shelters shall be permitted on the Interstate System.

(b) Each public service sign on school bus stop shelters adjacent to the Primary System shall not exceed 32 square feet (3 square meters), 50 percent of which must contain safety slogans or messages.

(c) Signs on school bus stop shelters adjacent to all other roads shall be allowed at locations approved by the governmental agency, authority or subdivision having jurisdiction therefor. Each advertising face shall not exceed 32 square feet (3 square meters) and no more than one sign on each shelter shall face in any one direction.

(d) Nothing in this section shall require a sign affixed to a bus stop shelter to meet the standards for a public service sign, if the bus stop shelter would otherwise meet the requirements for an off-premise sign and is located in a location at which an off-premise sign would be permitted.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

In (b), inserted metric references; and rewrote (c) and (d).

16:41C-8.6 On-premise signs

(a) A sign shall be classified as an on-premise sign if it identifies the principal activity located, or principal product produced or sold, or services sold or conducted, on the premises, or the sale or lease of the property on which the sign is located.

(b) When a sign consists principally of brand name or trade name advertising and the product or service advertised is only incidental to the principal activity, or when it brings rental income to the property owner, the sign shall be considered an off-premise sign used for the purpose of the business of outdoor advertising.

(c) The premises on which an activity is conducted shall be determined by physical facts rather than property lines. The following will not be considered to be part of the premises on which the activity is conducted and any signs located on such lands will be considered off-premises advertising:

1. Land separated by a roadway, highway or other obstruction; or
2. Narrow strips of land that are contiguous to the property but separated from the activity.

(d) Along interstate highways, not more than one on-premise sign per direction of travel shall be erected at a distance greater than 50 feet (15.2 meters) from the advertised activity. Such signs shall not exceed 150 square feet (14 square meters) in area. If, however, such property fronts on more than one street, one sign may be erected on each street frontage.

(e) When the advertised activity is a business, commercial or industrial land use, the sign distance shall be measured from the regularly used buildings, parking lots, ingress and/or egress driveways, storage or other structures which are essential and customary to the conduct of the business.

(f) No fees shall be required or permits issued for on-premise signs.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).
See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).
Substantially amended section.

16:41C-8.7 Off-premise signs

(a) The following general standards shall apply to off-premise signs:

1. Directional, official, public service, and on-premise signs, and signs painted on or attached to the structural steel supports of railroad bridges within the highway right-of-way shall not be counted nor shall measurements be made from them for purposes of determining compliance with spacing requirements between permitted locations.

2. The minimum distance (spacing) between permitted locations shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the edge of the sign face nearest the pavement edge, and shall apply only to permitted locations on the same side of the highway. The point of measurement for back-to-back signs shall be the midpoint between the nearest edge of the back-to-back sign faces.

3. Not more than two sign faces at a permitted location shall be visible to traffic traveling in the same direction. If two sign faces are placed to be visible to traffic traveling in the same direction (that is, side-by-side or one above another), the total combined area and dimensions of the advertising surfaces shall not exceed the maximum area and dimensions allowed. If sign faces are placed back-to-back or in a V-type construction, the maximum area and dimensions shall apply to the sign faces on each side of the sign.

4. Signs that are painted on or attached to railroad bridges within the highway right-of-way shall not exceed the limits of the structural steel bridge supports, or the maximum dimensions as specified for the highway involved, whichever is less.

5. No signs shall be allowed that are painted on or attached to railroad bridges within the right-of-way of any Interstate Highway.

6. No off-premise sign will be permitted which will be visible to any highway or portion of a highway that has been designated as a scenic byway, or has been nominated for designation as a scenic byway.

7. No off-premise sign will be permitted beyond 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of an Interstate or Primary system highway outside of urban areas for the purpose of their message being read from the main-traveled way.

(b) Off-premise signs that are visible to the main-traveled way of any portion of an Interstate highway or limited access highway on the Federal Aid Primary System and/or National Highway System, within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the right-of-way shall comply with the following.

1. Off-premise signs within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the nearest edge of the right-of-way will only be permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas.

2. Outside of all municipalities with a population of over 40,000 no sign may be located adjacent to or within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of an interchange, intersection at grade, or safety rest area. This distance shall be measured along the highway from the beginning or ending of pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main-traveled way.

3. The minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 1,000 feet (304.8 meters).

4. The maximum width of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 60 feet (18.3 meters). The maximum height of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 25 feet (7.6 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters), except where the sign is erected upon or attached to a building. In such event, the maximum height of the advertising surface area of a wall or roof mounted sign shall be 30 feet (9.1 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area shall be 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters.)

(c) Off-premise signs that are visible to the main-traveled way of any portion of a non-limited access highway on the Primary System within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the right-of-way shall comply with the following:

1. Off-premise signs within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the nearest edge of the right-of-way will only be permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas.

2. Outside of thickly settled districts, the minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 300 feet (91.4 meters). Within a thickly settled district, the minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 100 feet (30.5 meters).

3. The maximum width of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 60 feet (18.3 meters). The maximum height of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 25 feet (7.6 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters), except where the sign is erected upon or attached to a building. In such event, the maximum height of the advertising surface area of a wall or roof mounted sign shall be 30 feet (9.1 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area shall be 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters).

(d) Off-premise signs along all other highways.

1. Outside of thickly settled districts, the minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 300 feet (91.4 meters). Within a thickly settled district, the minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 100 feet (30.5 meters).

2. The maximum width of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 60 feet (18.3 meters), the maximum height of the advertising surface area shall be 30 feet (9.1 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area shall be 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters).

3. Off-premise signs will only be permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas.

(e) Off-premise signs within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District.

1. Off-premise signs within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District are exempt from the size, spacing and lighting provisions of this chapter providing they are not visible to any highways included in the Primary System and the signs comply with the City of Atlantic City's sign ordinance. In the absence of an Atlantic City sign ordinance, size, spacing, and lighting controls shall revert back to the provisions contained in this chapter.

(f) Off-premise signs visible only to pedestrian traffic such as boardwalks, train stations, etc.

1. The spacing requirements of this chapter shall not apply to signs along boardwalks, train station platforms and the like that are visible only to pedestrian traffic.

Repeal and New Rule, R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was "Off-premise advertising signs permitted within the protected area of the uncontrolled portion of Interstate Highways and within the protected area and protected zone of all other Limited Access Highways in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas".

Case Notes

Highway regulation governing off-premise advertising signs did not apply to company's application to erect billboard on Atlantic City Expressway. Philadelphia Outdoor Advertising Co. v. Department of Transportation, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 15.

16:41C-8.8 Multiple message signs

(a) Multiple message signs shall comply with all other sections of this chapter in addition to the following:

1. Multiple message signs visible to Interstate or Primary System highways are limited to technology approved by the Department.

i. Each message shall remain fixed for a period of no less than four seconds.

ii. When the message is to be changed it shall be completely accomplished in two seconds or less.

2. Multiple message signs visible to all non-Interstate and non-Primary System highways require review and approval, by the Administrator, of technology proposed to change messages as well as the time interval between message changes.

3. Multiple message signs shall contain a default design that will freeze the sign in one position if a malfunction occurs.

(b) The provisions in this chapter pertaining to size, spacing and illumination for multiple message signs shall not apply to such signs erected within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District.

(c) The provisions in this chapter pertaining to size, spacing and illumination for multiple message signs shall not apply to on-premise signs.

(d) All signs allowed by (b) above shall be shielded so as to prevent light from being directed at any portion of the main-traveled way of the street or highway, or if not so shielded, be of such low intensity or brilliance as not to cause glare or impair the operation of a motor vehicle. All other provisions of this chapter which pertain to illumination shall not apply to signs erected within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District.

Repeal and New Rule, R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was "Off-premise advertising signs erected within the protected area of Non-Limited Access State and Federal Aid Primary highways in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas".

16:41C-8.9 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was "Off-premise advertising signs along all other highways".

16:41C-8.10 (Reserved)

Repealed by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Section was "General standards".

SUBCHAPTER 9. NONCONFORMING SIGNS

16:41C-9.1 General provisions

(a) A nonconforming sign may continue at its permitted location and may be maintained, repaired, and/or restored provided that:

1. The sign shall be lawfully erected in accordance with its permit and is currently maintained in that manner;
2. The sign has not been removed, abandoned or totally destroyed; and
3. The advertising surface area is not larger than it was on the effective date of the adoption, revision, or amendment of the ordinance, statute, or regulation that rendered the sign nonconforming.

(b) Cutouts and/or extensions may not be added to a nonconforming sign. However, the advertising surface of a nonconforming sign may be reduced (and later rebuilt) to allow for cutouts and/or extensions to be added within its permitted rectangular envelope.

(c) Customary maintenance of a nonconforming sign shall be permitted in order to maintain the sign's structural integrity and/or aesthetics.

(d) A nonconforming sign may be modernized provided the number of sign faces and the advertising surface area are not increased, and the modernization is completed within 90 days. Approval of the Department shall be obtained prior to modernization of any nonconforming sign.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended section.

Case Notes

Permit for billboard sign exceeding legal size limitation denied if no nonconforming sign currently existing nor continuously maintained with valid permit issued before statute's effective date. *Wes Outdoor Advertising v. Department of Transportation*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 3.

Rebuilding after nonconforming billboard knocked down by vehicle was not violative of zoning regulations. *Commuter Signs v. Department of Transportation*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 1.

SUBCHAPTER 10. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

16:41C-10.1 Notice, protests and hearings

(a) When the Administrator determines that any person has committed a violation of any regulation set forth in this chapter, a written notice of violation and revocation, including a copy of the violation report, shall be issued to such person. Within 30 days after receipt of notice, such persons shall:

1. Correct the violation, if same is subject to being brought into compliance. If a multiple message sign is the subject of the violation, freeze the sign in one position within three business days of receipt of written notice;
2. Remove the signs or signs alleged to be in non-compliance; or
3. File a written protest with the Administrator stating the reason for protest and requesting either an informal hearing before the Office of Outdoor Advertising or a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Law, or both.

(b) Protests shall be filed within 30 days of the receipt of notice of the alleged violation or proposed revocation.

1. Filing of a protest shall not abate any penalties due, nor stay the right of the Administrator to remove any signs, space, and advertisements within 30 days of giving notice, unless the protestor furnishes security of the kind and in an amount satisfactory to the Administrator or the Commissioner or a court of competent jurisdiction stays such penalties or removal.

2. All protests shall be signed by the protestor or by a duly authorized agent.

(c) All informal hearings shall be scheduled within 30 days of receipt of the request by the Department unless extended by agreement.

(d) Within 15 days of the conclusion of an informal hearing, the Administrator shall issue a written decision, confirming modifying or vacating the determination of the Office of Outdoor Advertising. Within 30 days of receipt of the Administrator's written decision, a protestor may request a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Law, which shall be conducted in accordance with the

Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1. The Administrator's decision shall be a final decision if a request for a formal hearing is not made in the manner set forth above.

Amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended section.

16:41C-10.2 Causes for revocation of license or permit

(a) A license may be revoked whenever any statement made in the application for a license is materially false.

(b) A permit may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Whenever a statement in the application is materially false;

2. Whenever a sign has been erected contrary to the approved application and conditions of the permit;

3. Whenever any sign has been cited for and found in violation of a major violation more than twice within any 12 month period. For purposes of this provision, a major violation would be a violation of the size or lighting provisions of this chapter.

4. Whenever any provision of the law or rules contained in this chapter is violated;

5. Whenever the advertising surface area used is in excess of the permitted area;

6. Whenever a permitted structure has not been kept in a safe and well-maintained condition;

7. Whenever a permit is being maintained upon public property without the express permission of the governing authority;

8. Whenever a permit is being maintained upon private property without the consent of the property owner;

9. Whenever the existing natural landscape of the right-of-way has been trimmed, altered or destroyed in any way by the permittee or agent thereof without complying with N.J.A.C. 16:41;

10. Whenever a permittee fails to place his name and the sign's application number on the sign as required by this chapter;

11. Whenever a sign remains abandoned for a period of four months after being so cited by the Department; or

12. Whenever a permittee has failed to pay a penalty pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16:41C-10.5(e).

Recodified from 16:41C-10.3 and amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended section. Section was "Nature of hearings".

Case Notes

Billboard erected at a location other than one licensed was in violation of zoning regulations. Department of Transportation v. Wes Outdoor, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 5.

16:41C-10.3 Removal provisions

(a) In addition to the imposition of penalties as provided for in this chapter, any sign which is cited for an offense of these rules which has not been corrected within 30 days from the receipt of a notice of the alleged offense may be removed within 30 days of the receipt of a notice of removal. A notice of removal may be issued concurrently with any other notice.

(b) The filing of a written protest of any notice in accordance with this subchapter shall stay a notice of removal until such time as a final agency decision has been issued. In the event that the Department determines that immediate removal of the sign is required to avoid substantial damage to other property or to ensure public safety, no administrative stay of a notice of removal shall occur.

(c) If there has been a final adjudication which affirms the issuance of a notice of removal and the sign is not removed within 30 days of that adjudication, the Commissioner may authorize entry upon the property to effect the removal of the sign. Said entry and removal of the sign shall be without liability to the Commissioner and his or her agents. The cost of removal may be recovered against the owner either in a separate legal action or in addition to any penalties owed as determined by the Commissioner or court of competent jurisdiction.

Repeal and New Rule, recodified from 16:41C-10.4 by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Former section recodified to N.J.A.C. 16:41C-10.2.

16:41C-10.4 Penalties

(a) In addition to all penalties set forth in this chapter, any person who erects, uses or maintains any sign or authorizes the use of his name in connection therewith, in violation of any of the provisions of the State Act and this chapter, is liable to a per diem penalty of not less than \$50.00, nor more than \$500.00 for each day the sign remains in violation. However, except for cases where the violation is egregious, the maximum penalties assessed shall not exceed the gross income of the sign.

(b) A penalty of not less than \$50.00 shall be assessed for all violations. Liability for penalties in excess of \$50.00, and per diem accumulation thereof provided for in (a) above, shall begin 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice of violation by the person so noticed, unless the accumulation of penalties has been stayed by the Administrator, or the violation has been corrected prior to the accumulation of any penalties.

(c) In the interest of equity, the Commissioner shall have the power to abate all or any portion of penalties.

(d) In determining the amount of any penalty assessed, or to be assessed, for violating any rule contained in this chapter, the Commissioner shall consider, among other facts, the gross income of the sign, the egregiousness of the violation, whether the violation was intentional or accidental, whether the violator has a history of repeated violations, and the egregiousness thereof, and such other facts as will assist in arriving at a penalty commensurate with the violation.

(e) Penalties shall be paid in full within 60 days of the final and unappealable order by a court or an administrative tribunal, if contested, or within 60 days of written notification of the assessment of the penalty, if uncontested.

Recodified from 16:41C-10.5 and amended by R.1997 d.77, effective February 18, 1997 (operative March 3, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4742(a), 29 N.J.R. 614(a).

Substantially amended section. Section was "Removal provisions".

Case Notes

Monetary sanctions imposed on advertising company who illegally constructed and maintained billboards. *Wes Outdoor Advertising v. Department of Transportation*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TRP) 20.