

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

Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, expires on July 12, 2011.

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Chapter 27, Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Safety Programs, was repealed and Chapter 27, Traffic Regulations and Standards for Traffic Control Devices, was adopted as new rules by R.1996 d.198, effective April 15, 1996.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 As part of R.2001 d.68, Subchapter 2, Maximum Speed Limit on Highways in New Jersey, was repealed, effective February 20, 2001.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.

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SUBCHAPTER 5. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

16:27-5.1 Requests for information

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);