

Texas MUTCD

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

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The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard in accordance with Title 23 U.S. Code, Sections 109(d), 114(a), 217, 315, and 402(a), 23 CFR 655, and 49 CFR 1.48(b)(8), 1.48(b)(33), and 1.48(c)(2).

Addresses for Publications Referenced in the MUTCD

American Automobile Association (AAA)
1000 AAA Drive
Heathrow, FL 32746
www.aaa.com
800-222-4357

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 249
Washington, DC 20001
www.transportation.org
202-624-5800

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
1819 L Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
www.ansi.org
202-293-8020

American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA)
10003 Derekwood Lane, Suite 210
Lanham, MD 20706
www.arema.org
301-459-3200

Federal Highway Administration Report Center
Facsimile number: 814-239-2156
report.center@fhwa.dot.gov

Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)
120 Wall Street, Floor 17
New York, NY 10005
www.iesna.org
212-248-5000

Institute of Makers of Explosives
1120 19th Street, NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036-3605
www.ime.org
202-429-9280

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
1099 14th Street, NW, Suite 300 West
Washington, DC 20005-3438
www.ite.org
202-289-0222

International Organization for Standardization
1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse
Case Postale 56
CH-1211
Geneva 20, Switzerland
www.iso.ch
011-41-22-749-0111

International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA)
1901 North Moore Street, Suite 808
Arlington, VA 22209
www.safetyequipment.org
703-525-1695

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances (NCUTLO)
107 South West Street, Suite 110
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.ncutlo.org
800-807-5290

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1752
Rosslyn, VA 22209
www.nema.org
703-841-3200

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210
www.osha.gov
800-321-6742

Transportation Research Board (TRB)
The National Academies
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
www.nas.edu/trb
202-334-3072

U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (The U.S. Access Board)
1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004-1111
www.access-board.gov
202-272-0080

Acknowledgments

The Federal Highway Administration gratefully acknowledges the valuable assistance that it received from the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and its more than 250 voluntary members in the development of this Manual.

**Revision Number 2**

To: Users/ Holders of Revision 1 of the 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

From: Carol T. Rawson, P.E. *Carol T. Rawson, P.E.*

Manual: Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Effective Date: October 9, 2014

Revision Number 2 of the 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Texas MUTCD) is hereby issued. This revision eliminates terms not defined by FHWA ("toll lane" and "toll ramp") and corrects related figures and tables, adopts a clearer sign text message for bridge icing conditions, eliminates cemetery signing, and corrects minor, non-substantive typographical errors in Revision 1 of the 2011 Texas MUTCD.

This revision applies to the Table of Contents, Part 2, and Part 4. Revisions are indicated with the text "October 2014" in the footer of each revised page.

Attached is a Change List for Revision 2, which includes the section and page number revised. A complete Revision 2 manual is available on the TxDOT web page at <http://www.txdot.gov/government/enforcement/signage/tmutcd.html>. Also available on the page is a file with all the revised pages that may be used to replace corresponding pages in previously printed copies of the Texas MUTCD.



Revision Number 1

To: Users/holders of the 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform
Traffic Control Devices

From: Carol T. Rawson, P.E., Director
Traffic Operations Division

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol T. Rawson, P.E." in a cursive style.

Effective Date: December 6, 2012

Revision Number 1 of the 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Texas MUTCD) is hereby issued. This revision incorporates changes to existing compliance dates as adopted by the FHWA, include language restored to the National MUTCD concerning engineering judgment, make the corrections identified by the FHWA in the National MUTCD, and correct minor, non-substantive typographical errors in the 2011 Texas MUTCD.

This revision applies to the Table of Contents, Introduction, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Revisions are indicated with the text "November 2012" in the footer of each revised page.

Attached is a Change List for Revision 1, which includes the section and page number revised. A complete Revision 1 manual is available on the TxDOT web page at http://www.txdot.gov/txdot_library/publications/tmutcd.htm. Also available on the page is a file with all the revised pages that may be used to replace corresponding pages in previously printed copies of the Texas MUTCD.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Transportation Code, § 544.001. I certify that this 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which contains standards for a uniform system of traffic control devices, is in accordance with the provisions contained in a Minute Order passed by the Texas Transportation Commission on November 17, 2011.

This Manual, with subsequent revisions, shall apply to all traffic control devices installed on or after adoption of this manual upon the highways, roads, and streets of this State except that traffic control devices conforming to the 2006 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways Revision 1 on order or under contract prior to adoption of this manual may be installed. All existing traffic control devices or installations not in conformance with standards in this Manual shall be changed to conform to the new standards herein when replacement becomes necessary. Traffic control devices not previously required but which are required by new standards in this Manual shall be installed by the date indicated on the "Phase in Compliance Dates".

This 2011 Manual cancels and supersedes the 2006 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Revision 1, as amended, and all previous editions thereof.

Official Ruling on Requests for Interpretation, Changes, and Experimentations to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, 2009 Edition, with which this Manual is correlated, may be used as interim standards in the State of Texas, pending incorporation in this Manual as "Revisions".



Phil Wilson
Executive Director

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Texas MUTCD

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Introduction



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TEXAS MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES INTRODUCTION

Standard:

01 Traffic control devices shall be defined as all signs, signals, markings, and other devices used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, pedestrian facility, bikeway, or private road open to public travel (see definition in Section 1A.13) by authority of a public agency or official having jurisdiction, or, in the case of a private road, by authority of the private owner or private official having jurisdiction.

02 The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) is incorporated by reference in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Section 25.1 and shall be recognized as the Texas standard for all traffic control devices installed on any street, highway, bikeway, or private road open to public travel (see definition in Section 1A.13) in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 109(d) and 402(a). The policies and procedures of the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to obtain basic uniformity of traffic control devices shall be as described in 23 CFR 655, Subpart F.

03 In accordance with 23 CFR 655.603(a), for the purposes of applicability of the TMUTCD:

- A. Toll roads under the jurisdiction of public agencies or authorities or public-private partnerships shall be considered to be public highways;
- B. Private roads open to public travel shall be as defined in Section 1A.13; and
- C. Parking areas, including the driving aisles within those parking areas, that are either publicly or privately owned shall not be considered to be “open to public travel” for purposes of TMUTCD applicability.

04 Any traffic control device design or application provision contained in this Manual shall be considered to be in the public domain. Traffic control devices contained in this Manual shall not be protected by a patent, trademark, or copyright, except for the Interstate Shield and any items owned by FHWA or the State of Texas.

Support:

05 Pictographs, as defined in Section 1A.13, are embedded in traffic control devices but the pictographs themselves are not considered traffic control devices for the purposes of Paragraph 4.

Standard:

06 This Manual is issued under the authority of the Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 544, Traffic Signs, Signals, and Markings. Pertinent sections are quoted as follows:
 “§544.001. Adoption of Sign Manual for State Highways - The Texas Transportation Commission shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic-control devices consistent with this chapter that correlates with and to the extent possible conforms to the system approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.”

“§544.002. Placing and Maintaining Traffic-Control Device -

- (a) To implement this subtitle, the Texas Department of Transportation may place and maintain a traffic-control device on a state highway as provided by the manual and specifications adopted under Section 544.001. The Texas Department of Transportation may provide for the placement and maintenance of the devices under Section 221.002.
- (b) To implement this subtitle or a local traffic ordinance, a local authority may place and maintain a traffic-control device on a highway under the authority’s jurisdiction. The traffic-control device must conform to the manual and specifications adopted under Section 544.001.
- (c) Local authority may not place or maintain a traffic-control device on a highway under the jurisdiction of the Texas Department of Transportation without that department’s permission.”

Guidance:

07 *The Texas Transportation Code, Section 544.006 states that a person may not place, maintain, or display on or in view of a highway an unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device and it may be removed by the authority with jurisdiction over the highway without notice.*

Support:

08 The provisions of this Manual do not create mandatory duties, as opposed to discretionary duties, in the legal sense under the Texas Tort Claims Act and elsewhere. (State Department of Highways

and Public Transportation v. King, 808 S.W. 2d 465 (Tex. 1991).) This Manual does not establish a mandatory legal duty to install particular traffic control devices. This Manual is a standard for design and application of traffic control devices. This Manual is not a substitute for engineering judgment. (Bellona v. City of Austin, 894 S.W. 2d (Tex. App.-Austin 1995).)

09 The Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support material described in this edition of the TMUTCD provide the transportation professional with the information needed to make appropriate decisions regarding the use of traffic control devices on streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel (see definition in Section 1A.13).

10 Throughout this Manual the headings Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support are used to classify the nature of the text that follows. Figures and tables, including the notes contained therein, supplement the text and might constitute a Standard, Guidance, Option, or Support. The user needs to refer to the appropriate text to classify the nature of the figure, table, or note contained therein.

Standard:

11 **When used in this Manual, the text headings of Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support shall be as defined in Paragraph 1 of Section 1A.13.**

Support:

12 Throughout this Manual all dimensions and distances are provided in English units. Appendix A2 contains tables for converting each of the English unit numerical values that are used in this Manual to the equivalent Metric (International System of Units) values.

Guidance:

13 Except when a specific numeral is required or recommended by the text of a Section of this Manual, numerals displayed on the images of devices in the figures that specify quantities such as times, distances, speed limits, and weights should be regarded as examples only. When installing any of these devices, the numerals should be appropriately altered to fit the specific situation.

Support:

14 The following information will be useful when reference is being made to a specific portion of text in this Manual.

15 There are nine Parts in this Manual and each Part is comprised of one or more Chapters. Each Chapter is comprised of one or more Sections. Parts are given a numerical identification, such as Part 2 – Signs. Chapters are identified by the Part number and a letter, such as Chapter 2B – Regulatory Signs, Barricades, and Gates. Sections are identified by the Chapter number and letter followed by a decimal point and a number, such as Section 2B.03 – Size of Regulatory Signs.

16 Each Section is comprised of one or more paragraphs. The paragraphs are indented and are identified by a number. Paragraphs are counted from the beginning of each Section without regard to the intervening text headings (Standard, Guidance, Option, or Support). Some paragraphs have lettered or numbered items. As an example of how to cite this Manual, the phrase “Not less than 40 feet beyond the stop line” that appears in Section 4D.14 of this Manual would be referenced in writing as “Section 4D.14, P1, A.1,” and would be verbally referenced as “Item A.1 of Paragraph 1 of Section 4D.14.”

Standard:

17 **After the effective date of a new edition of the TMUTCD or a revision thereto new or reconstructed devices installed shall be in compliance with the new edition or revision.**

18 **Unless a particular device is no longer serviceable, non-compliant devices on existing highways and bikeways shall be brought into compliance with the current edition of the TMUTCD as part of the systematic upgrading of substandard traffic control devices (and installation of new required traffic control devices) required pursuant to the Highway Safety Program, 23 U.S.C. §402(a). The FHWA has the authority to establish other target compliance dates for implementation of particular changes to the MUTCD [23 CFR 655.603(d)(1)]. The TMUTCD will adhere to these dates and these target compliance dates are shown in Table I-1.**

19 **Except as provided in the following paragraph, when a non-compliant traffic control device is being replaced or refurbished because it is damaged, missing, or no longer serviceable for any reason, it shall be replaced with a compliant device.**

Option:

20 A damaged, missing, or otherwise non-serviceable device that is non-compliant may be replaced in kind if engineering judgment indicates that:

- A. One compliant device in the midst of a series of adjacent non-compliant devices would be confusing to road users; and/or
- B. The schedule for replacement of the whole series of non-compliant devices will result in achieving timely compliance with the TMUTCD.

Table I-1. Target Compliance Dates Established by the FHWA

2011 TMUTCD Section Number(s)	2011 TMUTCD Section Title	Specific Provision	Compliance Date
2A.08	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Implementation and continued use of an assessment or management method that is designed to maintain regulatory and warning sign retroreflectivity at or above the established minimum levels (see Paragraph 2)	June 13, 2014*
2A.19	Lateral Offset	Crashworthiness of sign supports on roads with posted speed limit of 50 mph or higher (see Paragraph 2)	January 17, 2013 (date established in the 2003 TMUTCD)
2B.40	ONE WAY Signs (R6-1, R6-2)	New requirements in the 2011 TMUTCD for the number and locations of ONE WAY signs (see Paragraphs 4, 9, and 10)	December 31, 2019
2C.06 through 2C.14	Horizontal Alignment Warning Signs	Revised requirements in the 2011 TMUTCD regarding the use of various horizontal alignment signs (see Table 2C-5)	December 31, 2019
2E.31, 2E.33, and 2E.36	Plaques for Left-Hand Exits	New requirement in the 2011 TMUTCD to use E1-5aP and E1-5bP plaques for left-hand exits	December 31, 2014
4D.26	Yellow Change and Red Clearance Intervals	New requirement in the 2006 TMUTCD that durations of yellow change and red clearance intervals shall be determined using engineering practices (see Paragraphs 3 and 6)	June 13, 2017, or when timing adjustments are made to the individual intersection and/or corridor, whichever occurs first
4E.06	Pedestrian Intervals and Signal Phases	New requirement in the 2011 TMUTCD that the pedestrian change interval shall not extend into the red clearance interval and shall be followed by a buffer interval of at least 3 seconds (see Paragraph 4)	June 13, 2017, or when timing adjustments are made to the individual intersection and/or corridor, whichever occurs first
6D.03**	Worker Safety Considerations	New requirement in the 2011 TMUTCD that all workers within the right-of-way shall wear high-visibility apparel (see Paragraphs 4, 6, and 7)	December 31, 2011
6E.02**	High-Visibility Safety Apparel	New requirement in the 2011 TMUTCD that all flaggers within the right-of-way shall wear high-visibility apparel	December 31, 2011
7D.04**	Uniform of Adult Crossing Guards	New requirement in the 2011 TMUTCD for high-visibility apparel for adult crossing guards	December 31, 2011
8B.03, 8B.04	Grade Crossing (Crossbuck) Signs and Supports	Retroreflective strip on Crossbuck sign and support (see Paragraph 7 in Section 8B.03 and Paragraphs 15 and 18 in Section 8B.04)	December 31, 2019
8B.04	Crossbuck Assemblies with YIELD or STOP Signs at Passive Grade Crossings	New requirement in the 2011 TMUTCD for the use of STOP or YIELD signs with Crossbuck signs at passive grade crossings	December 31, 2019

* Types of signs other than regulatory or warning are to be added to an agency's management or assessment method as resources allow.

** TMUTCD requirement is a result of a federal legislative mandate.

Note: All compliance dates that were previously published in Table I-1 of the 2011 TMUTCD and that do not appear in this revised table have been eliminated.