

15-4-8. SIGNS

A. **General Rules:** Business Signs on-premises shall conform to the following rules:

1. **Location:** No business sign shall be erected or maintained at any location where by reason of its position, wording, size, shape, color or illumination it may obstruct, obscure, impair, or interfere with the view of, or be confused with any traffic control device, signal or sign.

2. **Districts Permitted In:** Business signs shall be permitted in C-1, C-2, C-3, I-1, I-2 and BP districts.

3. **Height (above buildings):** No part of any sign attached to the exterior wall of a building shall be higher than the top of the vertical wall.

4. **Illuminated Signs (residential districts):** No illuminated sign shall be permitted within fifty (50') feet of any Residential District

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unless it is so designed that it does not reflect or shine light onto

said district.

5. **Height (freestanding signs):** No part of any free-standing sign shall be erected to a height greater than that specified for other structures in the district in which it is located. The height shall be measured from the centerline of the street or highway from which it is to be viewed, or the natural elevation at the base of the sign, whichever is lower.

6. **Setback (freestanding signs):** The minimum setback of freestanding signs from the street right-of-way shall not be less than ten (10') feet.

7. **Size of Signs:** The size of a business sign shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet, and business signs shall not exceed a total of three hundred (300) square feet per business site.

8. **Portable Signs:** Pennants, banners, portable signs, inflatables and/or similar devices may be permitted for special events lasting no more than thirty (30) days per calendar year, provided they are displayed so as not to obstruct a clear view of traffic, traffic lights and/or signals. Such displays are to be placed entirely within the confines of the property displaying the devices and shall be placed off all right-of-ways. These portable devices shall not emit any flashing lights and/or lighted moving devices. No more than one (1) portable device shall be displayed on the same parcel of property unless there is a minimum of sixty (60') feet between each device. Any or all displays shall be constructed and/or installed and shall be maintained and kept in orderly condition and good repair. No portable sign face shall exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. A permit must be obtained from the Building Commissioner.

9. **Number of Signs:** Only one (1) business sign structure may be

erected on each street frontage of a lot.

B. Business Signs, Off-Premises - Districts Permitted In: Off-premise signs shall be permitted in I-1 and I-2 zoning districts.

1. **Area of Signs:** Off-premise signs shall not exceed eight hundred (800) square feet and shall contain no more than two (2) signs per facing.

2. **Height:** The maximum height of an off-premise sign, including any attachments thereto, shall not exceed forty-five (45') feet. The height shall be measured from the centerline of the street or highway from which it is to be viewed or the natural elevation at the base of the sign, whichever is lower.

3. **Separation Between Off-Premise Signs:** The distances between lawfully erected off-premise sign structures shall be a linear

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measure taken along the right-of-way lines on both sides of the street or highway on which the sign is to be located.

a. Separation of one off-premise sign to another off-premise sign shall be one thousand five hundred (1,500') feet.

b. Separation from an off-premise sign to any platted residential development shall be three hundred (300') feet.

c. Separation from an off-premise sign to any school or church shall be three hundred (300') feet.

d. The separation requirement stated in item (a) need not be met where a physical obstruction exists which prevent viewing two off-premise sign structures at the same time.

4. **Setback:** The perpendicular distance from the right-of-way line to the leading edge of an off-premise sign structure shall be ten (10') feet.

5. **Illuminated Signs:** Lighting for off-premise signs shall be nonflashing and directed against the sign surface only.

C. Signs, General Provisions: All signs shall conform to the following provisions:

1. **For Sale or Rent Signs:** One (1) "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign not more than twelve (12) square feet in area for each dwelling unit, garage, or other quarters where appropriate shall be permitted, provided said sign is located on the premises.

2. **Agricultural Signs:** One (1) sign, not more than twelve (12) square feet in area, pertaining to the sale of agricultural products raised on the premises shall be permitted.

3. **Government Signs:** Signs established by, or by order of, any governmental agency shall be permitted.

4. **Construction Signs:** One (1) sign, not more than sixty-four (64) square feet in area, for construction and development, giving the name of the contractors, engineers, or architects, shall be permitted, but only during the time that construction or

development is actively under way.

5. Event Signs: For an event of public interest such as a county fair, or church event, one (1) sign, not over thirty-two (32) square feet in area and located upon the site of the event shall be permitted. Such sign shall not be erected more than thirty (30) days before the event in question and shall be removed immediately after such event. Also directional signs, not more than three (3) square feet in area, showing only a directional arrow and the name of the event

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of public interest. Such signs shall not be erected more than fourteen (14) days before the event in question and shall be removed immediately after such event. Street banners shall be permitted subject to the approval of the Town Council.

6. Real Estate Development Signs: For each real estate development that has been approved in accordance with the *Subdivision Control Ordinance*, one (1) sign, not over three hundred (300) square feet in area, advertising the sale of property in such subdivision shall be permitted, but only when located on some portion of the subdivision being advertised for sale. Such sign may be illuminated. Such sign shall be maintained only during such time as some portion of the land advertised for sale remains unsold. Permits for such signs shall be issued by the Building Commissioner for one (1) year periods and may be renewed for additional one (1) year periods to allow time for reasonable display.

7. Flashing or Animated Signs: No intermittent flashing, or animated signs shall be permitted.

8. Numbers Required on Structures: *All structures constructed after January 1, 2007 which have been assigned a mainling address for the receipt of mail through the U.S. Postal Service system must have numerals at least five inches (5") high in a color which contrasts with the color of the surface they are mounted upon near the front door of each structure in the Town or such other location as is approved by the Plan Commission or Building Commissioner, visible from the street, showing the street number of the mailing address for such structure.*

(Ordinance 198, 12/13/2006) All structures must meet the requirements of the Town of Burns Harbor Ordinance No. 108 (1985) and its amendment, Ordinance No. 89-123.

9. Signs in Residential Districts: The following signs are permitted in all residential districts:

a. Name Plate - Single Family Dwellings: A name plate which shall not exceed three (3) square feet in area is permitted for each dwelling unit of a single-family, or row house structure; such name-plate shall indicate nothing

other than name and/or address of the occupant, and/or customary home occupation. No other sign shall be allowed.

b. **Name Plate - Multiple-family Dwellings:** Multiplefamily residences and residential projects of all types may display identification signs indicating nothing other than name and/or address of the premises and/or the name of the management. Such sign shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area.

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c. **Information Signs:** For uses other than those listed in items (a) and (b) above, bulletin boards or identification signs indicating nothing other than name and/or address of the premises, and schedule or services or other information relevant to the operation of the premises; such signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area.

d. **Information Signs (number):** For each use of items (a) and (b) eligible to display a sign, only one (1) sign per street frontage shall be permitted; except that uses occupying extended frontages shall be permitted one such sign per five hundred (500') feet of frontage or major fraction thereof.

10. **Maintenance:** All signs and sign structure shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation.

11. **Removal:** Signs which are no longer functional, or are abandoned, shall be removed, or relocated, in compliance with the provisions of this ordinance within thirty (30) days following such dysfunction at the expense of the owner of the sign and/or property owner on which such sign is located.

12. **Non-conforming:** Any legally established non-conforming sign shall be permitted without alteration in size or location. If such a sign is damaged, exceeding sixty (60%) percent of its replacement value, it shall not be rebuilt; provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent maintenance, re-painting, or posting of legally established non-conforming signs.