

Rule No.: 941 - 7601 - 00400

Agency: Mississippi Department of Transportation

Agency Effective Date: May 15, 2005

Agency Issued Date: March 8, 2005

Secretary of State Authority Date: May 15, 2005 Supercedes Rule:

Division: Traffic Engineering Division

Rule Title: DIRECTIONAL SIGNING POLICY FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC GENERATORS AND ATTRACTIONS

The person to be contacted regarding the proposed rule is: Facility and Records Management Director

Name of person originating the proposed rule: Robert W. Dean, Jr.

Name of supervisor or person who approved the proposed rule:

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines governing the installation of directional signs within highway rights-of-way for guidance to general traffic generators and attractions, as per guidelines established in the current edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and as per Mississippi Code, Article 7, sections 63-3-301 through 63-3-325.

Summary:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines governing the installation of directional signs within highway rights-of-way for guidance to general traffic generators and attractions, as per guidelines established in the current edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and as per Mississippi Code, Article 7, sections 63-3-301 through 63-3-325.

The full text of the proposed rule is:

All cites herein refer to the most current version of the cited document.

1. General policies for general traffic generators and attraction signing on interstate and fully-controlled access facilities
 - 1.1 Only facilities that adequately serve the needs of the interstate motorists will be signed.
 - 1.2 Facilities must be within 15 mile, except for major traffic generators, of the terminal of the nearest off-ramp as outlined in Categories I, II, and III.
2. General policies for general traffic generators and attraction signing for other highways
 - 2.1 Signs will be installed no farther than the nearest major access highway serving the entrance to the facility.
3. General policies for general traffic generators and attraction signing for all highways
 - 3.1 Signs shall conform to the design and location requirements in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
 - 3.2 Priority for inclusion on directional signs will be given as follows: Cities, Towns, and Road or Street names will be given first priority. Other destinations as allowed under this Rule will be given priority o a first-come first-serve basis. In the event several legitimate requests are made, priority will be given to the facility generating the largest

volume of traffic. (Road or street name signs are not installed by the Department of Transportation except on interstate and controlled-access facilities.)

- 3.3 The addition of this type signing will not increase the total number of destinations shown at an interchange to more than four.
- 3.4 Directional signs for attractions will not be considered when other directional signs exist adequately identifying the direction to the facility.
- 3.5 Necessary trailblazing signs must be in place from the highway to the facility before directional signs are placed on the highway.
- 3.6 Only the main facility or attraction will be considered for signing. Areas, attractions, or facilities within the main facility will not be considered except for allowable service signing.
- 3.7 Connecting roads from the state highway to the facility must be adequate to handle all types of anticipated vehicles under all weather conditions.
- 3.8 Approval must be obtained from the maintaining authority before directing traffic from the state highway over the connecting road to the facility.
- 3.9 If after installation of directional signs it is found that the criteria outlined are not being met, notification will be given to the owner or representative of the facility and reasonable time will be allowed for the deficiencies to be corrected. If after that time the criteria are still not met, then the state-installed directional signs will be removed.
- 3.10 Where attractions are extremely seasonal, such as fairgrounds, the signs will be placed only when the attraction is active. At other times, the signs will be removed.

Sites for the Mississippi Code are available at www.state.ms.us and MUTCD information is available at mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov. Any other publications may be viewed during regular business hours at the MDOT Administration Building.

CATEGORY I. GENERAL TRAFFIC GENERATORS

MINIMUM CRITERIA

CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS		
Universities and 4-Year Colleges	Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Full-time curriculum.	Same
Community/Junior Colleges	Community/Junior Colleges with enrollment of 1000 minimum.	Same
Branches of Universities Branches of 4-Year Colleges Branches of Community/Junior Colleges	Branches must be comparable in all respects to at least a Community/Junior College level, including enrollment.	Same
Seminaries	Seminaries must be accredited by a reputable Association and must be comparable to at least a Community/Junior College level in enrollment.	Same
Vocational-Technical Centers	Not signed on interstates. May be signed on fully controlled access State Highways and must meet same criteria listed for other highways.	Vocational-Technical Centers shall be branches of accredited Universities, and 4-Year Colleges, or Community/ Junior Colleges, (or High Schools which have stand-alone facilities with adult courses.)
High Schools	Not signed.	High Schools with athletic facilities, gymnasiums, or auditoriums, etc. will be considered for signing from the

		nearest highway, if not visible from that highway.
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CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CENTERS		
Veterans Hospital Retardation Centers Mental Health Centers Training Schools Specialized State Schools (School for Blind and Deaf)	Not signed	Serve 5 or more counties. Religious denomination or other privately operated facilities must be licensed or approved by Federal or State government as applicable.

CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES		
Correctional Institutions Military Bases Research Facilities	Regional Correctional facilities, Military bases, and research facilities must be Federal or State licensed or operated. Research facilities must be major, permanent type activity.	Serve 5 or more counties
State Agencies	Not signed.	Only District or State Headquarters with over 25 employees will be signed.
National Guard Armories	Not signed.	Not signed.
Department of Transportation	Not signed.	County offices, District offices, and State offices.

State Police	General service signing (blue and white) for Troop Headquarters will be placed on the main line and ramps (ex. MHP-TROOP E). The appropriate arrows will be placed at the ramp terminals.	Only State Police District or State Headquarters will be signed.
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CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT	A minimum of 20 stores or shops, so arranged as to be readily recognized as the "DOWNTOWN" area.	Same

CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
INDUSTRIAL PARKS	Presence of 5 or more different industries on land specifically developed for industrial use and designated as "Industrial Park" by City, County, or State.	Presence of 2 or more different industries on land specifically developed for industrial use and designated as "Industrial Park" by City, County, or State.

CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES		
Commercial Airports	Regional airports with commercial carrier service signed with name of airport and classified by the FAA or the Mississippi Aeronautics Commission as providing 1 st level or 2 nd level air carrier service.	Same
General Service Airports	Airports with general service facilities.	Same
Railroad Stations Bus Stations	Not signed.	Stations should be all weather and have the following facilities as a minimum: -Ticket Counter (if applicable) -Restrooms -Seating Area -Parking Area -Loading Platform -Telephone

CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
COMMUNITIES	<p>Name must appear on Cram's Superior Series County or State Map, on County or State maps, or name and location must be formally established by the County Board of Supervisors. Should have a recognizable area with at least one public building or business that serves as the center of community activity within the boundaries of the Community.</p> <p>Shall have adequate signs identifying the boundary of the Community on the roadway connecting with the State highway.</p> <p>The most direct route to the Community must be an all weather road. Trailblazers, if required, shall be in place prior to signing.</p> <p>Corporate Limit or City Limit signs will be placed on Interstate or fully controlled access facilities only if the City has jurisdiction over the facility and if there is a jurisdictional problem.</p>	Same

CLASSIFICATION	INTERSTATE & FULLY CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAYS	OTHER HIGHWAYS
MISCELLANEOUS FACILITIES		
Organization Camps (Boy Scout, Church, etc.)	Not signed.	Must serve 5 or more counties. These camps must be primarily oriented toward providing growth in character, physical capacities, etc. Camps primarily oriented toward recreational activity and of a private or restricted nature will

not be considered.

CATEGORY II. ATTRACTIONS

CLASSIFICATION	MINIMUM CRITERIA ALL HIGHWAYS
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
Beaches	General admission, if collected, must be collected upon entry, and any charges must be clearly displayed to be apparent to the prospective visitors.
Casinos	
Coliseums	Maintain regular posted hours and schedules which shall include being open to the public at least six (6) days a week, for a minimum of three (3) months of the year (except fairgrounds, coliseums, and stadiums which may operate on a flexible basis.)
Fairgrounds	
Stadiums	
Gamelands and Forest Reserves	Private lakes developed for residential purposes will not be considered.
Lakes	Each of these facilities must have activities available which would be normally expected with its given type. The following are examples of activities to be provided; however, dependent upon the size and location, additional activities may be required.
Parks	
Camping	Beaches – sunbathing, swimming, fishing, boating.
State Golf Courses	Casinos – Signing shall be limited to brown/white signs with the word “Casino”. These will be for use at grade-separated interchanges to guide motorists over most direct route to a gaming area.
Multi-Purposes Facilities	Stadiums & Coliseums – regular scheduled attractions such as circuses, performing arts, trade shows, and significant athletic events.
	Fairgrounds – Trade & Craft and Livestock exhibits and associated activities. Amusement Park activities and related forms of entertainment.
	Gamelands and Forest reserves – Hunting, nature, or hiking trails, central staging facility for check-in and information on the area.
	Campgrounds – water hookup at each site.
	Lakes – Fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking.
	Parks – Camping, picnicking, areas for outdoor games.
	Boat Ramps – May be signed if they are immediately adjacent to state route, the access road is all weather and the boat ramp is paved.
	Golf Courses – must be state-operated courses.
	Multi-purpose Facilities – Same as stadiums and Fairgrounds. Must serve a regional area and have a full-time staff. Information concerning ticket sales and upcoming events must be clearly posted.
	All facilities shall have adequate parking and access roads or ramps for the type vehicle being accommodated. Facilities shall be maintained and kept in a neat, aesthetic appearance, and applicable to the type.
	Adequate restrooms, bath facilities, and water shall be provided as necessary.

CLASSIFICATION	MINIMUM CRITERIA ALL HIGHWAYS
HISTORICAL AREAS	
Buildings or Other Structures	Properties which have been determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer to be of significant National, State, or local interest.
Indian Sites	Priorities for signing will be determined in the following order: National significance first, State significance second, and local significance third.
Monuments	Properties of local interest will not be signed from interstate or fully controlled access facilities. Historical Districts are not signed.
Museums	Facilities must also meet the following specific criteria:
National Cemeteries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open to the public a minimum of six (6) days per week year round.
Historical Sites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Restrooms and drinking water are required when the on-site activity or tour requires more than one (1) hour.
Antebellum Homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Shall have sufficient off-highway parking and adequate entrance and exit ramps or drives.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Facilities may be locked when guided tours are provided; however, waiting time for guides shall be reasonable and tour schedules shall be posted where practical.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. General Admission, if collected, must be collected upon entry and any other charges must be clearly displayed.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Facilities must be maintained in a neat, orderly, and aesthetic state.

CATEGORY III. OTHER FACILITIES

Categories I and II identify specific types of facilities and minimum criteria for directional signing. It is recognized that other facilities of unique character may merit directional signs. Examples of other facilities are craft shows or demonstrations, arboretums, aquariums, shrines, grottos, planetariums, tourist information centers, or tourist attractions such as major amusement parks, zoos, sea worlds, etc.

Specific criteria cannot be developed for these facilities and consideration for signs will be given on an individual basis. Generally, such facilities shall be expected to have public restrooms, drinking water, adequate parking, all weather access roads, and have operating hours and any fees clearly displayed.

The following signing may be allowed:

1. Permanent directional signs may be installed provided it is determined that the facility is of general interest to the public and generates sufficient traffic year round to be a significant destination, and the addition of this destination does not exceed four (4) destinations.

2. Temporary directional signs may be installed for seasonal facilities if they are determined to be of general public interest and use. These signs will not remain in place year round.
3. Temporary directional signs may also be installed to orient traffic to a new government facility that would not normally be signed. The orientation signs may remain in place for one (1) year.
4. For facilities or activities of short duration, owners or operators may be permitted to install temporary directional signs consistent with standard design and location for an appropriate time period, generally two (2) weeks or less. This does not apply to fully controlled access facilities.