

# Applications for Billboard and General Sign Permits



Thank you for your interest in Pickens County, South Carolina. This packet includes the necessary documents for the review and permitting of Billboards and Signs.

Should you need further assistance, please feel free to contact a member of the Planning Staff between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at (864) 898-5953



# COUNTY OF PICKENS

www.co.pickens.sc.us



## Department of Community Development

*Building Codes Administration • Parks and Recreation • E-911 Administration • Planning*

### BILLBOARD PERMIT APPLICATION

Purpose of Permit:  Renewal    New Construction    Alteration    Repair or Upgrade  
 Relocation of an Existing Billboard

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Proposed or Existing Billboard: \_\_\_\_\_

General Description of Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Map No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Road right-of-way: \_\_\_\_\_

(If on a State highway, contact the South Carolina Department of Transportation at 864-859-0039.)

#### FOR NEW, RELOCATED, ALTERED, REPAIRED, or UPGRADED BILLBOARDS

Contractor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of Construction: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Billboard:  single face    double face

Mounting:  freestanding    wall

If permit is for new construction or relocation, please indicate address and location of billboard that is being removed: \_\_\_\_\_

General Description of Proposed Work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Please attach a sketch for construction of a new billboard or reconstruction of an existing or relocated billboard)**

Note: The acceptance of this application for review and the payment of fees does not constitute the approval of the requested permit. Approval is granted only upon finding that the billboard will be erected in compliance with all applicable requirements of the County's Land Use and Development Standards Ordinance.

Periodic field checks and inspections may be conducted to determine compliance, if found non-compliant the billboard must be brought into compliance by the billboard owner, moved, or removed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

PERMIT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Received By: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Action:

Approval

Denial

Date of Action: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Setback Required: 15 ft from street right-of-way, or  
30 ft from roadway with undefined right-of-way

Dimensions:

Maximum Size: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft Maximum Height: \_\_\_\_\_ ft Maximum Width: \_\_\_\_\_ ft

Minimum Spacing Allowed between Billboards: \_\_\_\_\_ ft

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SCDOT APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NON-CONTROLLED ACCESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTROLLED ACCESS: \_\_\_\_\_

This is not a building permit! Upon approval of this application and before commencing work, you must apply for the appropriate building/electrical permits from the Building Codes Department.



# COUNTY OF PICKENS

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## Department of Community Development

Building Codes Administration • Parks and Recreation • E-911 Administration • Planning

### SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION

Date Application Received: _____	Received By: _____
\$20.00 Application Fee Paid: _____	
Date Application Approved: _____	Approved By: _____

#### PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN: ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SIGN COMPANY/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN: ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY/SIGN LOCATION (ADDRESS): \_\_\_\_\_

TAX MAP NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

EXISTING SIGN(S) ON SITE: (List Sign Type, Area, and Height): \_\_\_\_\_

NATURE OF WORK: ( ) New Construction ( ) Alteration ( ) Repair

#### PROPOSED TYPE OF SIGN(S):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Free-Standing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached to Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-Premises Directional | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary            |

\*Attach sign design/sketch with dimensions

COST OF SIGN(S): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SIGN AREA \_\_\_\_\_ sf SIGN HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN ILLUMINATION: \_\_\_\_\_ EXTERIOR \_\_\_\_\_ INTERIOR

**(Note: If sign is to be lighted, an electrical permit is required.)**

ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY VERIFICATION (List Road ROW):

The right-of-way for a Pickens County maintained road can be obtained by contacting Roads & Bridges at 864-898-5933 or the Planning Department at 864-898-5953. If the sign is located adjacent to a state maintained road, please contact the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) at 864-859-0039 for right-of-way verification.

- **All free-standing signs shall be setback ten (10) feet from the road right-of-way and all property lines. Off-premises directional signs shall be setback five (5) feet from the road right-of-way and all property lines.**

SIGNATURE(S) OF APPLICANT(S):

I (We) certify as property owner/authorized representative that the information shown on this application is correct.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This sign permit is only valid for the sign(s) constructed, erected or installed in accordance with the application herewith and in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Pickens County Development Standards Ordinance, as amended.

**This is not a building permit! Upon approval of this application and before commencing work, you must apply for the appropriate building/electrical permits from the Building Codes Department.**

# Article 7. Sign Standards

Table of Contents		page
<b>Sec. 701</b>	<b>Purpose of Article 7.</b> .....	<b>7-1</b>
701 (a)	Purpose of sign standards. ....	7-1
<b>Sec. 702</b>	<b>Definitions related to sign standards.</b> .....	<b>7-1</b>
<b>Sec. 703</b>	<b>Applicability and conformance.</b> .....	<b>7-3</b>
703 (a)	Signs that are regulated.....	7-3
703 (b)	Signs for which a permit is not required.....	7-3
<b>Sec. 704</b>	<b>Prohibited signs.</b> .....	<b>7-4</b>
704 (a)	Abandoned signs.....	7-4
704 (b)	Animated and flashing signs.....	7-4
704 (c)	Obscene signs. ....	7-4
704 (d)	Roof signs. ....	7-4
704 (e)	Signs imitating public warning or traffic devices. ....	7-4
704 (f)	Signs on vehicles or trailers. ....	7-4
704 (g)	Temporary Commercial signs. ....	7-4
704 (h)	Signs on Trees.....	7-4
<b>Sec. 705</b>	<b>Permitted signs.</b> .....	<b>7-4</b>
705 (a)	Permanent free-standing business identification (on-premises) signs.....	7-5
705 (b)	Permanent signs attached to buildings. ....	7-5
705 (c)	Billboards and off-premises directional signs. ....	7-6
705 (d)	Temporary Signs.....	7-9
<b>Sec. 706</b>	<b>Development standards.</b> .....	<b>7-9</b>
706 (a)	Visual clearances. ....	7-9
706 (b)	Vehicle area clearances.....	7-9
706 (c)	Pedestrian area clearances.....	7-9
706 (d)	Illumination. ....	7-9
706 (e)	Required buffers and setbacks.....	7-9
<b>Sec. 707</b>	<b>Sign measurement.</b> .....	<b>7-10</b>
707 (a)	Sign face area. ....	7-10
707 (b)	Clearance. ....	7-10
707 (c)	Primary building frontages.....	7-10
<b>Sec. 708</b>	<b>Application for a sign permit.</b> .....	<b>7-10</b>
<b>Sec. 709</b>	<b>Administration.</b> .....	<b>7-11</b>
709 (a)	Display of sign permit decal.....	7-11
709 (b)	Removal of signs. ....	7-11
<b>Sec. 710</b>	<b>Illustrations.</b> .....	<b>7-12</b>
	<i>Figure 7.1: Vision Clearance for Driveways/Intersections</i> .....	<i>7-12</i>

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## Article 7. Sign Standards

### Sec. 701 Purpose of Article 7.

#### 701 (a) Purpose of sign standards.

The purpose of these standards is to protect the dual interest of the public and the advertiser. More to the point, these regulations are designed to protect public safety and welfare and to ensure the maintenance of an attractive community environment, while satisfying the needs of sign users for adequate identification, communication and advertising. The provisions of this article shall be proactively enforced, as violations of this article may provide the violator with an unfair economic advantage over those businesses or individuals that are in compliance.

### Sec. 702 Definitions related to sign standards.

The following words and phrases have specific meanings as used in this Article:

**Automatic Changeable Copy Sign:** A sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols change automatically through electrical means (for example, time and temperature units).

**Awning:** A roof-like cover that projects from the wall of a building for the purpose of shielding a doorway, or window from the elements. Awnings are often made of fabric or flexible plastic supported by a rigid frame, and may be retracted into the face of the building.

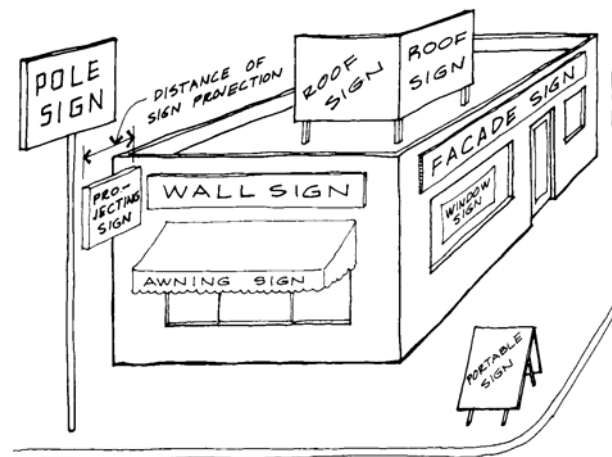
Awning sign: See "Building Sign."

**Banner:** A sign other than an official or personal flag, made of paper, cloth, thin plastic, or similar lightweight material, and usually containing a message or logo.

**Billboard sign:** Any permanent sign, excluding Off-Premises Directional Signs as defined hereinafter, with advertising copy not related to the use of the property on which the structure is located.

**Building sign:** A sign that in any manner is fastened to, projects from, or is placed or painted upon the exterior wall, window, door, or roof of a building. The term "building sign" includes but is not limited to the following:

- (1) **Awning sign:** A sign imposed, mounted or painted upon an awning.
- (2) **Marquee sign:** Any sign attached flat against the marquee or permanent sidewalk canopy of a building and not extending above the top of the marquee.
- (3) **Projecting sign:** A sign that is wholly or partly dependent upon a building for support and which projects more than 12 inches from such building.



SIGN TYPES

- (4) *Roof sign*: A sign that is mounted on the roof of a building or which is wholly dependent upon a building for support and which projects above the point of a building with a flat roof, the eaves line of a building with a gambrel, gable, or hip roof or the deck line of a building with a mansard roof.
- (5) *Wall (or façade) sign*: A sign painted on the wall of a building and has no sign structure.
- (6) *Window sign*: A sign that is applied or attached to the exterior or interior of a window or located in such a manner within a building that it can be seen from the exterior of the structure through a window.

*Double-faced sign*: A sign structure with two sign faces that are parallel (back-to-back) or that form an angle to one another, where each sign face is designed to be seen from a different direction and the two sign faces are separated from each other at their nearest point by no more than three feet.

*Off-premises directional sign*: Any permanent sign, excluding *Billboards* as defined above, the purpose of which is limited exclusively to the identification of a use or occupancy located elsewhere and which tell or shows the location, direction or route to such use or occupancy.

*Permanent sign*: A sign attached to a building, structure, or the ground in some manner requiring a permit and made of materials intended for more than short term use.

*Political sign*: A temporary sign announcing or supporting political candidates or issues in connection with any national, state or local election.

*Portable sign*: A sign that is not permanent, affixed to a building, structure or the ground.

*Sign*: Any structure, display, or device that is used to advertise, identify, direct, or attract attention to a business, institution, organization, person, idea, product, service, event, or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, design characteristics, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, movement, or illumination.

*Sign face*: That portion of the surface of a sign structure where words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements are or may be located in order to convey the message, idea, or intent for which the sign has been erected or placed. The sign face may be composed of two or more modules on the same surface that are separated or surrounded by open space or by portions of a sign structure not intended to contain any advertising message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature.

*Sign module*: Each portion or unit of a sign face that is clearly separable from other such units by virtue of the expression of a complete thought, message, logo, or idea.

*Sign structure*: All elements of a freestanding sign, including the sign face, background, or decorative elements related to the presentation or support of the sign's message, and the structural supports.

*Temporary sign*: A sign or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, fabric, plywood, or other light material and designed or intended to be displayed for a short period of time.

**Sec. 703      Applicability and conformance.**

**703 (a)      Signs that are regulated.**

- (1) This article regulates the number, size, placement and physical characteristics of signs, exempts certain signs, prohibits certain signs, and requires permits for certain signs.
- (2) This article is applicable to all unincorporated areas of Pickens County, regardless of property ownership, title or right-of-way jurisdiction. Enforcement officials shall coordinate enforcement on State or Federal right-of-way with appropriate officials of the applicable agencies.
- (3) From and after the adoption of this Ordinance, no sign may be erected in Pickens County unless it conforms to the requirements of this article and all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes. The Planning Department will maintain information on the effective date of this ordinance and any changes hereto for the purpose of determining applicability and conformity.

**703 (b)      Signs for which a permit is not required.**

The following signs do not require a permit, but are otherwise subject to the other provisions of this article and applicable State and Federal law and regulation, and may not be located within the right-of-way unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Traffic, directional, warning, or informational signs authorized by any public agency; these may be placed in the right-of-way as required.
- (2) Official notices issued by any court, public agency or officer. These may not be placed in such a manner as to present an obstruction to visibility as defined in Section 706(a) of this article.
- (3) Residential Real Estate signs and construction signs not to exceed six (6) square feet. Commercial Real Estate signs not to exceed twenty (20) square feet; these signs are limited to on site placement.
- (4) Open house, garage sale and yard sale signs. These signs may be placed one week prior to the event and must be removed two days after the event or else they will be in violation of this Ordinance.
- (5) Institutional signs, not to exceed twenty (20) square feet, for any public, charitable, educational, medical, or religious institution; these signs are limited to on site placement.
- (6) Building name plates with related inscription.
- (7) Flags and flag poles; limited to forty (40) feet in height.
- (8) Painted wall and window signs.
- (9) On-site directional signs, not to exceed six (6) square feet in area.
- (10) One-time auction signs; these signs may be placed 15 days prior to the event and must be removed 5 days after.
- (11) Political signs within 30 days before an election and 10 days after the election.
- (12) Seasonal agricultural product advertising, limited to on site placement. Directional signs bearing the name of the business and directions may be placed off site. These signs must be removed one week after the last day of the selling season
- (13) Private street or road signs.

(14) Signs prohibiting hunting, fishing, loitering, trespassing and similar signs not exceeding one square foot in area.

**Sec. 704 Prohibited signs.**

The following types of signs are prohibited:

**704 (a) Abandoned signs.**

All signs and supporting structures in conjunction with a business or use that is no longer in business or operation unless a new permit for the sign has been obtained. For a sign to be declared abandoned, the enforcing agency must attempt to contact the owner and provide due notice of intent to declare the sign abandoned and must give the owner 15 days in which to reply or repair the sign.

**704 (b) Animated and flashing signs.**

Strobe lights and signs containing strobe and/or blinking lights that are visible beyond the property line. Signs other than automatic changeable copy signs that flash, blink, rotate, revolve, or have moving parts or visible bulbs, are not allowed.

**704 (c) Obscene signs.**

- (1) No sign shall be erected or displayed containing obscene or indecent words, photographs, or depictions.
- (2) A sign is indecent when taken as a whole, it describes, in a patently offensive way, as determined by contemporary community standards, sexual acts, excretory functions, or sexual parts of the human body.

**704 (d) Roof signs.**

Signs that are mounted flush to or painted on the roof are not considered roof top signs for the purpose of this prohibition.

**704 (e) Signs imitating public warning or traffic devices.**

Signs using the words "stop", "danger" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in a manner other than to warn the public of a hazard or potential hazard.

**704 (f) Signs on vehicles or trailers.**

Signs on or painted on a motor vehicle or trailer and parked with the primary purpose of providing a sign not otherwise allowed for by this Ordinance.

**704 (g) Temporary Commercial signs.**

Temporary commercial advertisements other than as allowed in Section 705(d).

**704 (h) Signs on Trees.**

Signs painted on or attached to trees, fence posts, rocks, or other natural features, and telephone or utility poles. (2/16/10)

**Sec. 705 Permitted signs.**

The following signs are allowed, subject to the permitting requirements of Article 12 and the applicable development regulations of this section.

**705 (a) Permanent free-standing business identification (on-premises) signs.**

- (1) Sign Height: For all freestanding (on-premises) signs, height shall be measured from the grade of the road, street, or highway to which the sign is nearest at the nearest point to the sign, to the highest point of any portion of the sign (for the purposes of determining grade, access ramps or overpasses shall be excluded from such determinations).

The maximum allowable sign heights shall be as follows:

- a. The sign height for a freestanding (on-premises) sign located on a four (4) lane, divided, arterial street or located within 500 feet of any interchange of said type street shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet.
  - b. All other freestanding (on-premises) signs shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height.
- (2) Allowable Area: Free-standing signs are allowed one and one-half (1-1/2) square feet of sign face per linear foot of street frontage, up to a maximum of two hundred (200) square feet.
  - (3) Number: One freestanding sign is allowed for each development site, lot or parcel on which a non-residential use is constructed. Where a site or parcel fronts on more than one street, one additional freestanding sign is permitted for each street. If preferred, such signs may be combined into a single sign with additional sign area, based on the frontage of both streets.
  - (4) Where two or more detached buildings occupy the same lot or parcel, each may have one free-standing sign, provided the total sign face (area) does not exceed the allowable limits specified by Section 705(a)(2), based on linear street frontage of the site or parcel on which they are located. (2/16/10)
  - (5) Where two or more attached businesses or buildings occupy the same site or parcel, i.e. shopping center, only one freestanding sign for the aggregate businesses shall be permitted per street frontage.
  - (6) Location: No free-standing sign shall be located nearer than ten (10) feet to any property line or right-of-way, nor shall such sign face overhang or extend beyond the property line, or in any way impair visual clearance at driveway or street intersections.

**705 (b) Permanent signs attached to buildings.**

- (1) Allowable Area
  - a. If there is no free-standing business identification sign on the site, 1-1/2 square feet of sign area is permitted for each linear foot of the principal building, not to exceed two hundred (200) square feet.
  - b. If there is a free-standing business identification sign, one (1) square foot of sign area is permitted for each linear foot of the principal building, not to exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet.
- (2) Types of Signs: Fascia, projecting, marquee awning and flush roof signs are allowed.
- (3) Number of Signs: There is no limit on the number of signs if within the total allowable area limit. However, only one projecting sign is allowed per building frontage, and shall only be allowed if there is no free-standing sign on the same site frontage; except for shopping centers, which may have one projecting sign for each business use, plus one aggregate free-standing business identification sign for the center as prescribed by Section 705(a). (2/16/10)

**705 (c) Billboards and off-premises directional signs.**

- (1) Unless otherwise specified, the following requirements related to all freestanding off-premises Billboards receiving initial permitting after March 4, 2002 (the term "initial permitting" shall mean receiving a valid sign permit for a new or relocated Billboard, but shall not include permitting or re-permitting of Billboards existing and/or having valid sign permits prior to March 4, 2002):
  - a. Billboard defined. *Any permanent* sign, excluding *Off-Premises Directional Signs* as defined hereinafter, with advertising copy not related to the use of the property on which the structure is located.
  - b. Structural Requirements. All Billboards shall be constructed entirely out of steel, shall be supported by a single steel pole (a "monopole") and shall have a steel face on all facings. Any lighting shall be directed toward the sign face and no light source shall be visible from the roadway or surrounding properties. All construction and installation shall meet applicable building codes.
  - c. Location. All Billboards shall be allowed only on commercial, business, or industrial properties. Commercial, business, or industrial properties shall mean properties being used solely for commercial, business, or industrial activity and for which a valid commercial, business, or industrial land use permit has been issued, and only on the side of the highway, street or road on which the commercial, business, or industrial activity is located.
  - d. Spacing. No Billboards shall be permitted:
    1. Within one thousand (1000) feet of any other Billboard, as measured in a straight line from pole to pole;
    2. Within five hundred (500) feet of any property used for a residential purpose at the time of construction of the Billboard;
    3. Within one thousand (1000) feet of any historic site, place, or district that is recorded on the national register, or any public park;
    4. Within one thousand (1000) feet from the centerline of any designated scenic highway or the designated Heritage Corridor.
    5. Within two thousand five hundred (2500) feet from the centerline of the scenic highway and Heritage Corridor route known as the "Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway" or SC 11.
  - e. Maximum allowable display area. No Billboard may contain more than four hundred (400) square feet of sign face area per sign face.
  - f. Height Restrictions.
    1. The maximum height of the base of any Billboard face shall be fifty (50) feet, including structural components of the Billboard, measured from the grade of the road, street, or highway to which the Billboard is nearest at the nearest point to the Billboard;
    2. The minimum height of the base of any Billboard face shall be fifteen (15) feet above the grade of the road, street, or highway to which the Billboard is nearest at the nearest point to the Billboard.
  - g. Minimum Setbacks
    1. No Billboard shall be erected such that any portion of the Billboard shall be within fifteen (15) feet of any road, street, or highway right of way or within thirty (30) feet of any paved or unpaved roadway where the right of way is undefined.

2. No Billboard shall be erected such that any portion of the Billboard shall be within five (5) feet of any property line.
- h. Abandoned Billboard. A Billboard without advertising copy or copy advertising available space on said sign for a period of (30) consecutive days shall be considered abandoned. The Code Enforcement Officer shall send written notification of a determination of abandonment to the property owner and sign owner. Within ninety (90) days after mailing of said notification, the owner of the Billboard must either display copy on the Billboard or remove the abandoned billboard. Failure to comply with requirements of this subsection is a violation of the ordinance and will subject the Billboard owner and landowner to penalties and/or forced removal of the sign.
- i. Permit Issuance. In addition to the permitting requirements of Article 7 which are applicable to all signs, the following permitting requirements shall apply to Billboards in particular. *(2/16/10)*
- j. Permits for existing Billboards. All Billboards having valid sign permits prior to March 4, 2002, or which existed prior to permitting requirements, shall be required to be permitted or re-permitted on or before April 30, 2002, but shall not be required to meet present standards and requirements as a condition for receiving said permitting or re-permitting. In order to be eligible for initial permitting or re-permitting, the owner shall furnish the Planning Department of the County with the following information on each Billboard:
  1. Location;
  2. Color photograph, taken within ten days of submission to the County, of each face and support structure; and
  3. Sign face area of each face.

No fee shall be charged for initial permitting or initial re-permitting of Billboards having valid sign permits prior to March 4, 2002, or which existed prior to permitting requirements.
- k. Permits for new or relocated Billboards. A sign permit for a new Billboard or for the relocation of an existing Billboard shall not be issued by the County unless:
  1. The County has verified that an existing Billboard has been completely removed, the new or relocated Billboard has no greater sign face area than that Billboard it is replacing and the new or relocated Billboard does not exceed present Billboard size requirements; and,
  2. An officer of the company applying for the permit verifies in writing to the Planning Department that the new or relocated Billboard shall be completely constructed or reconstructed within twelve (12) months from the date the sign permit for the new or relocated Billboard is issued; and,
  3. An officer of the company applying for the permit certifies in writing to the Planning Department that the new or relocated Billboard shall have no more sign faces than the Billboard it is replacing and meets all present Billboard face requirements; and,
  4. An officer of the company applying for the permit certifies in writing to the Planning Department that the company had provided the information required by subsection 705(c)(1)(j) above for all of its existing Billboards in Pickens County and has received re-permitting for said Billboards as required hereunder, and *(2/16/10)*

5. The County has verified that the new or relocated Billboard and its proposed location meet all present standards and requirements of this ordinance and all Federal, State and local statutes, and,
6. All other requirements for obtaining a permit have been met, including, but not limited to the payment of an initial permit fee of two-hundred dollars (\$200.00).

Notwithstanding the foregoing no sign permit for the relocation of a Billboard or for a new Billboard, shall be issued if the company requesting such permit is known by the County to be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance as to any Billboard or Billboard location in the County.

- l. Permits for replacement Billboards in same location. A replacement Billboard for an existing nonconforming Billboard may be erected on the exact same location, provided the replacement Billboard meets the structural requirements set forth in Section 705(c)(1)b and does not exceed the height and display area of the sign to be replaced. *(2/16/10)*
- m. Posting of Sign Permits. The Pickens County Planning Department shall issue all permits in duplicate, one of which shall be weather resistant. The owner of each Billboard in Pickens County shall be responsible for affixing the weather resistant permit to the billboard in a prominent and visible location on the pole and for ensuring that each permit is continuously attached thereafter.
- n. Renewal. All sign permits issued in accordance with this section shall be valid for the calendar year in which they are issued and shall be renewed not later than January 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year. An annual renewal fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), subject to periodic adjustment by County Council, shall be charged at the time of issuance and must be paid prior to issuance of the renewal permit. No renewal permit shall be issued if the company requesting such permit is known by the County to be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance. Any Billboard that does not have a renewal permit issued for it by January 30<sup>th</sup> of any given calendar year shall be removed by the Owner within ninety (90) days after written notification from the code enforcement officer unless a renewal permit is obtained within that ninety (90) day period. Failure to renew the permit with the time guidelines as set forth above is a violation of the Code and will subject the Billboard owner and landowner to the following penalties in addition to the annual renewal fee listed above:
  1. 1 to 29 days past due - \$100 penalty
  2. 30 to 59 days past due - \$200 penalty
  3. 60 to 89 days past due - \$300 penalty
  4. Beyond 90 days - forced removal of sign

(2) The following requirements relate to all Off-Premises Directional Signs:

- a. Off-Premises Directional Signs Defined. Any permanent sign, excluding Billboards as defined above, the purpose of which is limited exclusively to the identification of a use or occupancy located elsewhere and which tell or shows the location, direction or route to such use or occupancy.
- b. Location. Off-Premises directional signs shall be located at least five (5) feet from any defined right of way or property line, or at least fifteen (15) feet

from the edge of any paved or unpaved roadway where the right of way is undefined.

- c. Maximum Allowable Display Area. Maximum allowable sign face area shall be forty-eight (48) square feet.

**705 (d) Temporary Signs.**

- (1) Pennants, flags, fluttering devices and similar exhibits to announce grand openings and mark special occasions are permitted on site along collector and arterial streets (only); provided such exhibits are removed within six (6) days of the occasion; further provided that not more than one extension of five (5) days may be granted on request.
- (2) Signs announcing the subdivision of land may be erected on the land being developed and shall be removed when 75% of the lots are conveyed or after two (2) years, whichever comes first.

**Sec. 706 Development standards.**

All signs allowed by this ordinance must comply with all other development standards of this ordinance.

**706 (a) Visual clearances.**

- (1) No sign may be located within a vision clearance as defined below and no support structure(s) for a sign may be located in a vision clearance area unless the diameter is twelve (12) inches or less.
- (2) Vision clearance areas are defined as triangular shaped areas located at the intersection of any combination of streets, private roads, alleys, or driveways. The sides of the triangle extend fifteen (15) feet from the intersection of the vehicle travel ways. The height of the vision clearance area is from forty-two (42) inches above grade to ten (10) feet above grade. Refer to Figures 7.1 and 7.2 for the appropriate illustration. (2/16/10)

**706 (b) Vehicle area clearances.**

When a sign extends over a private area where vehicles travel or are parked the bottom of the sign structure shall be at least fourteen (14) feet above the ground. Vehicle areas include driveways, alleys, parking lots, and loading and maneuvering areas.

**706 (c) Pedestrian area clearances.**

When a sign extends over private sidewalks or walkways, the bottom of the sign structure shall be at least eight and one-half (8 ½) feet above the ground.

**706 (d) Illumination.**

- (1) Sign illumination shall be placed and shielded so as not to directly cast light rays into nearby residences, sleeping accommodations, or in the eyes of vehicle drivers.
- (2) Signs incorporating steady, unshielded light bulbs shall utilize bulbs not in excess of 75 watts intensity per bulb.

**706 (e) Required buffers and setbacks.**

The sign face of a sign structure may be erected in required buffers and setbacks, but no closer than five (5) feet to any property line.

**Sec. 707 Sign measurement.**

**707 (a) Sign face area.**

- (1) The area of sign faces enclosed in frames or cabinets is determined on the outer dimensions of the frame or cabinet surrounding the sign face (see Signface Measurement Illustrations). Sign area does not include foundations, supports, or border to the sign. Only one side of a double faces or V-shaped, freestanding sign is counted.
- (2) When a sign is on a base material and attached without a frame, such as wood board or Plexiglas panel, the dimensions of the base material are to be used unless it is clear that part of the base contains no sign related display or decoration.
- (3) When signs are constructed of individual pieces attached to a building wall, sign area is determined by a perimeter drawn around all the pieces.
- (4) For sign structures that contain multiple modules oriented in the same direction, the modules together are counted as one sign face.
- (5) The maximum surface area visible at one time of a round or three-dimensional sign is counted to determine sign area.
- (6) When signs are incorporated into awnings, the entire panel containing the sign is counted as the sign face unless it is clear that part of the panel contains no sign related display or decoration.

**707 (b) Clearance.**

Clearances are measured from the grade directly below the sign to the bottom of the sign structure enclosing the sign face.

**707 (c) Primary building frontages.**

Primary building frontages are derived from each ground floor occupant's qualifying exterior wall.

**Sec. 708 Application for a sign permit.**

- (1) Application for sign permits, where required, shall be made to Pickens County Planning Commission at the offices of the Planning Department.
- (2) Each application shall be accompanied by the following information:
  - a. Identification of ownership and/or leaseholder or property on which sign is to be erected, including street address. (When placing a sign on any property not owned by the applicant, a letter of consent must be obtained from the owner of the property before a permit can be issued.)
  - b. Name and address of the owner of the sign.
  - c. Site plan sketch with dimensions (non-professionally drafted plan is acceptable) showing the location of the sign with respect to the property and right-of-way lines, building setback lines, and any buildings, parking areas, existing free-standing signs, and buffers.
  - d. Correct size, shape, configuration, fence area, height, nature, number and type of sign to be erected.
  - e. The value of the sign and sign structure.

- (3) The Planning Department may waive any of the informational requirements listed above deemed unnecessary to any application.
- (4) A fee, based on the valuation of the sign, as set by the County Council. If electrical service is needed, an additional electrical permit would need to be applied for.
- (5) The Planning Department may make or require inspections of any construction work to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance and other laws which are in force and to ascertain that the sign is erected as indicated on the approved sign permit application . The Planning Department will establish and maintain a system of sign permit decals that identify each permitted sign with a permanent, indelible and unique identification number and will maintain a data-base as part of the public record for all currently permitted signs.

**Sec. 709 Administration.**

**709 (a) Display of sign permit decal.**

- (1) All sign permit decals for the erection of a sign shall be displayed on the sign and readily visible in a manner prescribed by the Planning Department.
- (2) Under no circumstances may the sign permit decal be moved from one sign to another, nor may the sign to which it is attached be relocated to another location.
- (3) In the event signs are dismantled, removed or the ownership transferred, the sign permit decal shall be removed, returned to the Planning Department and an application made for a replacement sign permit decal.
- (4) If a sign permit decal is lost, defaced, destroyed or otherwise becomes illegible through normal wear or an act of vandalism, a new application shall be made.

**709 (b) Removal of signs.**

- (1) Signs Subject to Removal Without Notice.  

The Code Enforcement Officer shall have the authority to remove without notice to the owners thereof, and impound for a period of 10 days, signs placed within any street or highway right-of-way; signs attached to trees, fence posts, telephone and utility poles, or other natural features, or otherwise erected without a permit.
- (2) Signs Subject to Removal With Notification from the Code Enforcement Officer
  - a. Signs not constructed in conformity with the current Building Code standards and applicable electrical code standards, and signs not maintained in good repair and clean condition.
  - b. Non-conforming signs where there has been:
    1. a change in use of the property or the business has been discontinued,
    2. a change in business name,
    3. abandonment of the sign for one (1) year.
- (3) Signs Erected Without a Permit, but Otherwise in Compliance.
  - a. The Building Codes Department shall attach a highly visible decal reading "VIOLATION" to the face of the sign. The sticker shall include the date that it was attached to the sign with instructions to call the office immediately.
  - b. If, within 10 working days, the owner of the sign fails to contact the office, bring the sign into conformance with this Article and get a permit for the sign, the Building Codes Department shall have the sign removed and impounded without further notice.

(4) Recovery of Impounded Signs

The owners of signs impounded may recover same upon the payment of One Dollar and 00/100 cents (\$1.00) for each square foot of such impounded sign, prior to the expiration of the 10 day impoundment period. In the event it is not claimed within 10 days, the Building Codes Department shall have the authority to discard or sell the sign.

Sec. 710 Illustrations.

Figure 7.1: Vision Clearance for Driveways/Intersections

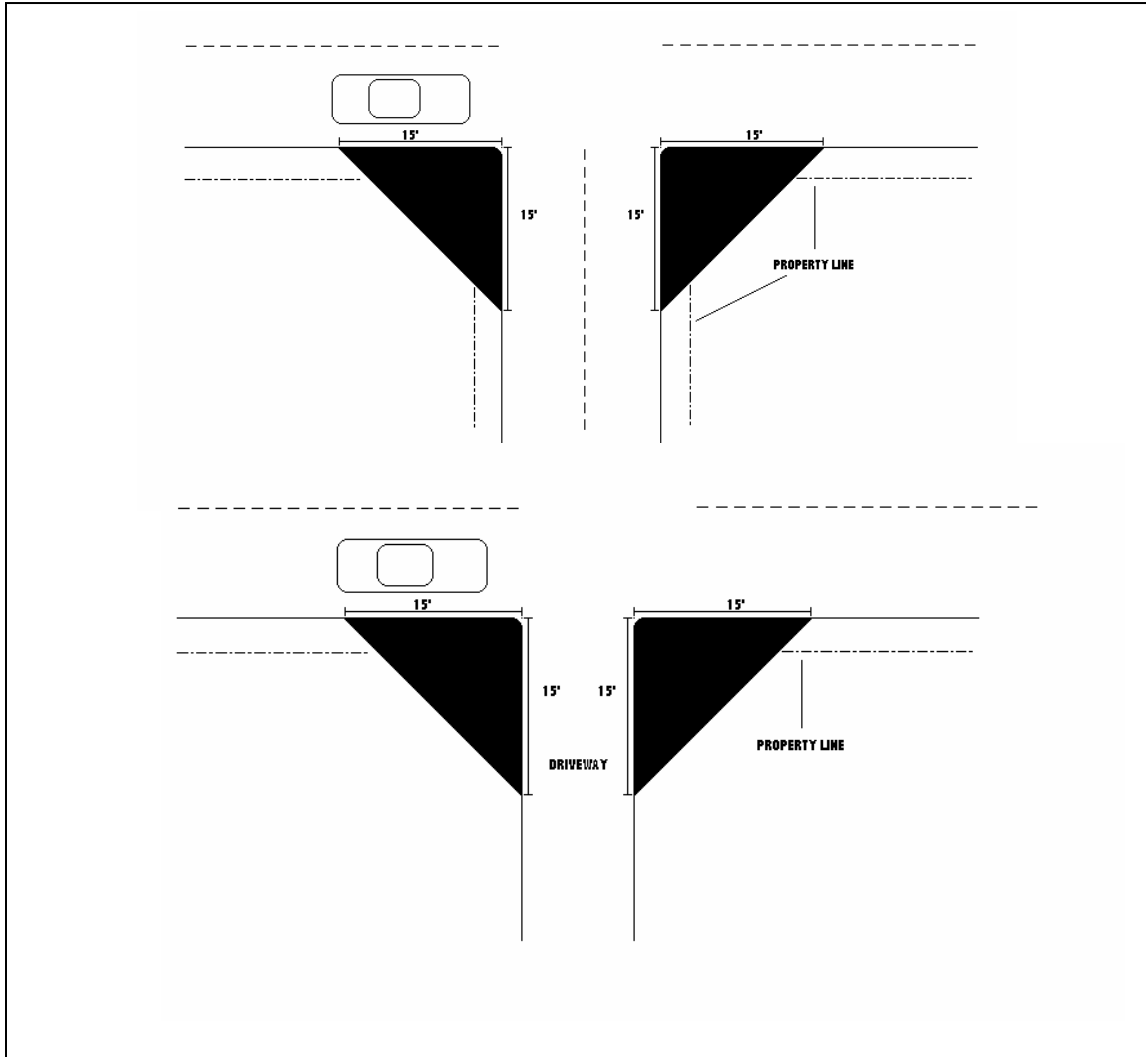


Figure 7.2: Vertical Vision Clearance



Figure 7.3: Sign Face Measurements

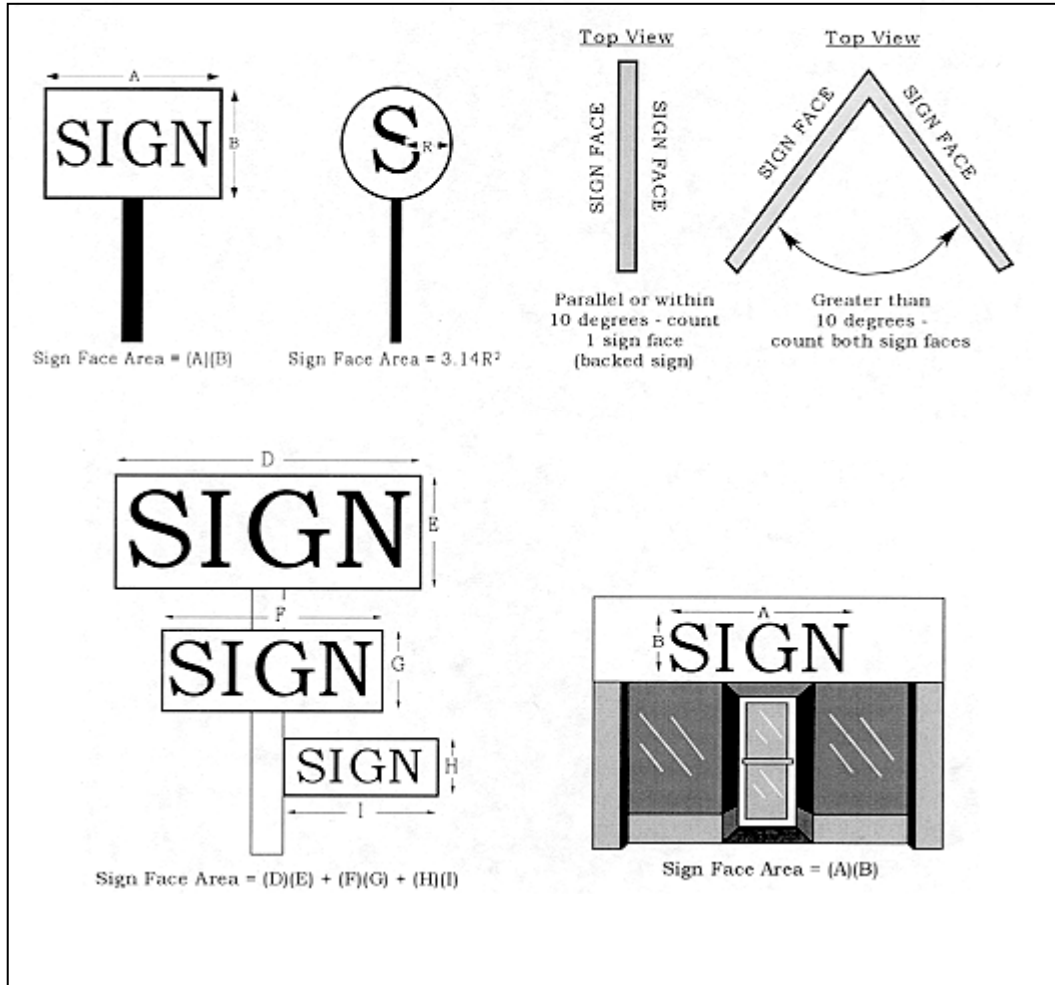
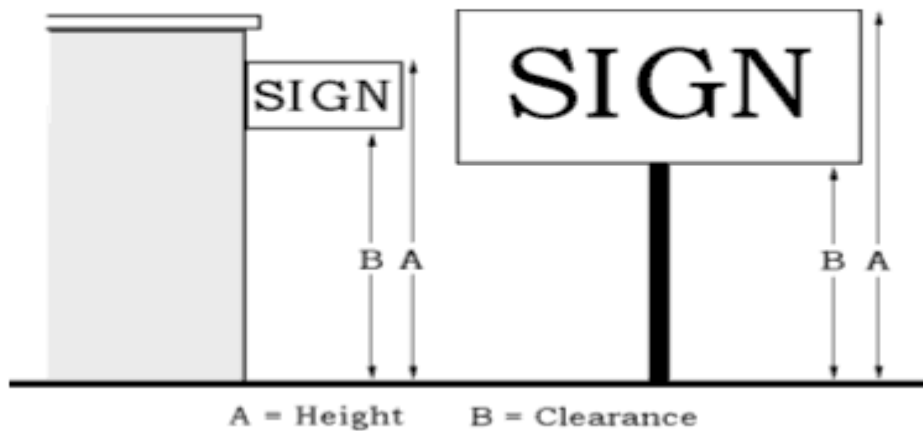


Figure 7.4: Sign Clearances



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