

Article 7. Sign Regulations

Effective January 1, 2009, as Amended through April 21, 2009

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Article 7. Sign Regulations

Effective January 1, 2009, as Amended through April 21, 2009

This Article provides for the types of signs that may be placed on a property, and regulates such characteristics as their size, number, placement and timing (for temporary events).

Sec. 701. Purpose and intent.

(a) Purpose of sign regulation.

- (1) Regulation of the location, size, placement and certain features of signs is necessary to enable the public to locate goods, services and facilities in the county without difficulty and confusion, to improve the general attractiveness of the county, to take advantage of the beauty of the county's natural environment, and to protect property values therein. Such regulation is also necessary to facilitate and aid in the identification and location of residences and businesses in the county in the event of police, fire, or other emergencies and to avoid confusion and delay in response to such emergencies. Accordingly, it is the intention of the County to establish regulations governing the display of signs that will:
 - a. Promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare.
 - b. Provide for the expression of commercial and noncommercial speech by citizens and businesses in the county.
 - c. Enhance the economy of the county and the success of business and industry by promoting the reasonable, orderly and effective display of signs.
 - d. Restrict signs and lights that increase clutter or which increase the probability of traffic accidents by obstructing the vision of or confusing drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians.
 - e. Promote signs that are aesthetically compatible with their surroundings.
 - f. Insure proper maintenance, for safety and structural soundness, as well as the appearance and functionality of signs.
- (2) The purpose of this Article, therefore, is to support the economic vitality of the county through adequate identification of occupants, services and events; to safeguard life through traffic safety; to protect the use of property, property values and the public welfare; and to afford adequate opportunity for self-expression through free speech. These purposes are realized by regulating and controlling the number, location, size, type, illumination and aesthetic qualities of signs and sign structures so that all persons have ample opportunity to be equally heard and the public health, safety and general welfare are adequately secured.

(b) Regulation of signs.

No sign shall be placed or maintained on any property, building or other structure within the unincorporated area of Camden County except in conformity with this Article.

(c) Intent of sign regulations.

Notwithstanding any other restrictions in this Sign Article, any sign authorized under this Article can contain any commercial or non-commercial message, other than messages containing nudity or obscenity as defined herein, or other than a sign that advertises an activity that is illegal under local, state or federal laws.

Sec. 702. Definitions related to signs.

(a) **Land use categories.**

Land use categories referred to in this Article have the meanings as defined in the Glossary of Definitions (Article 15) of this Development Code.

(b) **Definitions of words and phrases.**

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

Abandoned Sign: Cessation of the use of a sign by either the owner of the sign or the occupant of the property on which the sign is placed, or through the removal or relocation of the previous occupant of the property, or a sign that has ceased to be used through the removal of its sign copy or the deterioration of its sign copy through lack of maintenance. "Cessation of use" shall not include temporary or short-term periods of remodeling, refurbishment or maintenance of the sign.

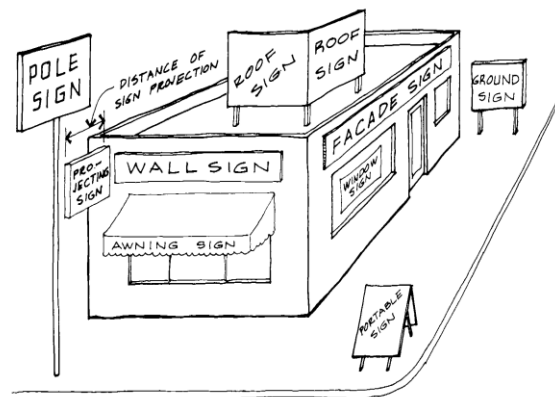
Awning: A roof-like cover that projects from the wall of a building for the purpose of shielding a doorway, or window from the elements. Awnings are often made of fabric or flexible plastic supported by a rigid frame, and may be retracted into the face of the building.

Awning Sign: See "Building Sign."

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

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:

- a. *Awning Sign:* A sign imposed, mounted or painted upon an awning.
- b. *Canopy Sign:* A sign imposed, mounted or painted upon a freestanding canopy, as defined herein.
- c. *Mansard Sign:* A sign imposed, mounted or painted upon the fascia portion of a mansard roof.
- d. *Marquee Sign:* Any sign attached flat against the marquee or permanent sidewalk canopy of a building.
- e. *Parapet Sign:* A sign imposed, mounted or painted on a building's parapet wall.
- f. *Projecting Sign:* A sign affixed flat to a wall and extending more than 24 inches from the surface of such wall, or any sign attached to and extending at an angle from a wall surface (usually perpendicular).
- g. *Roof Sign:* A sign that is mounted on, applied to, or otherwise structurally supported by the roof of a building (other than the fascia portion of a mansard roof).
- h. *Under-Canopy Sign:* A display attached to the underside of a marquee or building canopy and protruding over public or private sidewalks.
- i. *Wall (or Façade) Sign:* A sign that is fastened directly to or is



SIGN TYPES

placed or painted directly upon the exterior wall of a building, with the sign face parallel to the wall, and extending from the surface of the wall no more than 12 inches.

- j. *Window Sign*: A sign that is placed on or behind a windowpane or glass door and intended to be viewed from outside the building.

Canopy:

- a. *Building Canopy*: A permanent roof-like structure projecting from a building and open on at least one side for the purpose of shielding a pedestrian walkway from the elements.
- b. *Freestanding Canopy*: A freestanding roof-like structure supported by columns intended to shield a vehicular driveway or service area from the elements.

Changeable Copy Sign:

- a. *Automatic Changeable Copy Sign*: A sign on which the sign copy changes automatically on a lamp or LED bank (such as electrical message boards or electronic time and temperature units) or through mechanical means (such as rotating vertical or horizontal slats).
- b. *Manual Changeable Copy Sign*: A sign on which the sign copy is changed manually in the field, such as bulletin boards and reader boards with changeable letters.

Channeled Letter Signs:

- a. *Internally Channeled Letters*: Letters or other symbols cut into a sign face and located above a recessed background surface, often designed for the background surface to be illuminated by an artificial light source.
- b. *Reverse Channeled Letters*: Letters or other symbols raised above a background surface designed to be illuminated from behind and within the letters or symbols by an artificial light source.



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. Sign faces on a single sign structure that are separated by more than three feet are treated as separate signs.

Festoons: Strings of light bulbs and strings of ribbons, tinsel, small flags, pennants, streamers, pinwheels or other similar devices designed to move in the wind.

Flag: A sign made of paper, woven natural or synthetic fabric, thin plastic or similar lightweight pliable material that is normally displayed by flying from a pole as a wind-activated device.

Freestanding Sign: A sign permanently attached to the ground and that is wholly independent of any building or other structure. The term “freestanding sign” includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. *Pole Sign*: A sign that is mounted on a freestanding pole, columns or similar support such that the bottom of the sign face or lowest sign module is not in contact with the ground.
- b. *Ground Sign*: A freestanding sign in which the entire bottom of the sign face or structure is in contact with the ground, providing a solid and continuous background for the sign face from the ground to the top of the sign. Also referred to as a “monument sign.”

Illuminated Signs:

- a. *Internally Illuminated Sign:* Any sign that is illuminated by an artificial light source from within the sign structure over any or all of its sign face.
- b. *Externally Illuminated Sign:* Any sign that is partially or completely illuminated at any time by an artificial light source that directly or indirectly illuminates the face of the sign from outside the sign structure.

Incidental Sign: A small sign, emblem or decal no larger than one square foot. Such signs are normally located on doors, windows and gas pumps, and are generally not readily visible or legible from public rights-of-way.

Internally Channeled Letters: See under "Channeled Letter Signs."

Kiosk: A freestanding sign structure, usually cylindrical in shape, intended to be viewed from all sides and erected for the purpose of posting signs, notices or other public announcements. Kiosks that are composed of flat faces are treated as multi-faced signs.

Mansard: A steeply sloped, roof-like façade architecturally similar to a building wall.

Marquee: A permanent roof-like structure or canopy of rigid materials supported by and extending from the façade of a building.

Marquee Sign: See under "Building Sign."

Minimum Front Principal Building Setback: The minimum distance required by the zoning on a property between an adjoining street and the façade of a principal building on the property.

Monument Sign: See "Ground Sign" under "Freestanding Sign."

Multi-Faced Sign: A single sign structure consisting of two sign faces (see "double-faced sign") or three or more sign faces that are separated from each other at their nearest point by no more than three feet. Sign faces on a single sign structure that are separated by more than three feet are treated as separate signs.

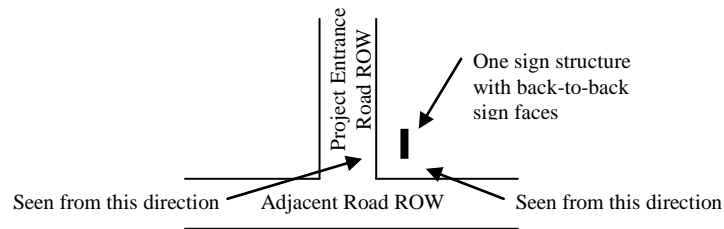
Pennant: Any lightweight plastic, fabric or similar material designed to move in the wind; pennants are often suspended from a rope, wire, or string in series. The term "pennant" shall not include a "banner" or a "flag" as regulated in this Development Code.

Planned Center: A single office, commercial or industrial property that is designed or intended for occupancy by two or more principal businesses that are separately owned and have no corporate relationship.

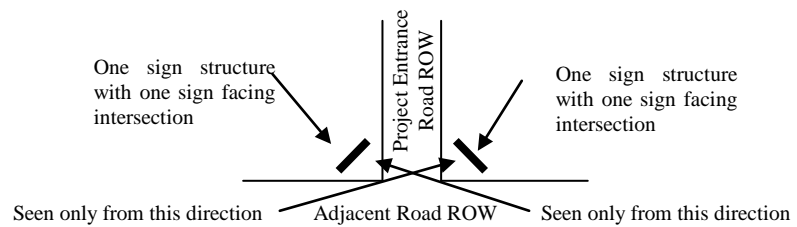
Principal Signs: The main, most prominent or largest building or freestanding signs on a property. Such signs are of permanent construction and not placed as temporary signage.

Project Entrance Sign: A permanent freestanding sign located at an entrance designed and permitted for vehicular access into a multi-family development, or into a development containing multiple lots or condominium units, such as but not limited to a particular residential or commercial subdivision, business center, office park or industrial park. Designs for project entrance signs are classified as two types:

- a. *Single Sign:* A project entrance sign designed as a single sign structure with two back-to-back faces, oriented to be seen from both directions on the road adjacent to the development.



- b. *Dual Sign*: A project entrance sign designed as two separate sign structures, each with a single sign face individually oriented toward the intersection so as to be viewed from only one direction on the road adjacent to the development, and each located on opposite sides of the project entrance.



Projecting sign: See under "Building Sign."

Reverse Channeled Letters: See under "Channeled Letter Signs."

Roof Sign: See under "Building Sign."

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.

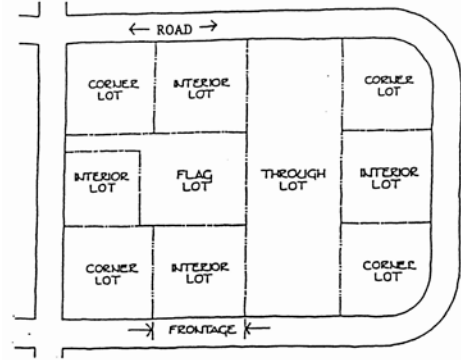
Sign Copy: The words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements that are to convey the message, idea or intent for which a sign has been erected or placed.

Sign Face: That portion of the surface of a sign structure where sign copy is 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 that is not intended to contain any sign copy 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 its individual or independent construction or framing.

Sign Structure: A structure exclusively or primarily intended to support a sign face and which, in combination with the sign face, comprises a sign as defined in this Article. A sign structure comprises all elements of a freestanding sign, including the sign face, background, or decorative elements related to the presentation or support of the sign copy, and the structural supports. A structure that incidentally supports a sign face but whose primary purpose is other than providing such support, such as, but not limited to, an exterior wall of a building, a structural retaining wall or a decorative free-standing fence or wall at a project entrance is not considered a sign structure.

Street Frontage: That side of a lot abutting on a street; also, the length of each front lot line. Corner lots at intersections and double frontage (through) lots have multiple street frontages; corner lots formed by a curve in the street have one street frontage.



Temporary Event: An activity having a specific duration or the end of which is related to a specific action, usually lasting for only a few days or months at a time. Temporary events include but are not limited to such activities as:

- a. The offering of a property or premises for sale or rent.
- b. An election, political campaign, referendum, or ballot proposition put to the voters as part of city, county, state, or federal governance.
- c. Special business promotions, such as but not limited to “grand openings,” “close-out sales,” and seasonal sales events.
- d. A yard sale.
- e. The construction of a building or development project, or the rehabilitation, remodeling, or renovation of a building.
- f. A public announcement of a special event or seasonal activity by an individual or a nonprofit organization.

Tenant: A natural person, business or other entity that occupies land or buildings by title, under a lease, or through payment of rent; an occupant, inhabitant, or dweller of a place.

Under-Canopy Sign: See under “Building Sign.”

Vehicular Sign: Any sign placed, mounted, painted on or affixed to a motor vehicle, freight, flatbed or storage trailer or other conveyance when same are placed or parked in such a manner as to be viewed or intended to be viewed from a public right-of-way, except that this definition shall not apply when:

- a. Such conveyances are actively being used to transport persons, goods or services in the normal course of business;
- b. When such conveyances are parked in an inconspicuous area; or
- c. When such conveyances are actively being used for storage of construction materials for, and on the same lot with a bona fide construction project for which building and other applicable permits have been issued and where construction is underway and provided said conveyances are located within designated storage areas.

Wall Sign: See under “Building Sign.”

Window Sign: See under “Building Sign.”

Sec. 703. Applicability.

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

The regulations and requirements of this Article apply to all signs that are or are intended to be viewed from a public right-of-way or adjacent property, or that are intended to be viewed from outdoor areas of public property, except as otherwise exempt under this Section.

(b) **Signs that are exempt from regulation.**

Each of the following types of signs are allowed on any property and are exempt from the restrictions imposed by this Article:

(1) **Official governmental signs.**

Signs placed by or at the direction of a governmental body, governmental agency or public authority, such as but not limited to traffic signs, signals or regulatory devices or warnings; official emblems, public notices or official instruments; signs providing directions to specific facilities or locations; signs of historical interest; signs designating special events or areas of architectural or historic significance or gateways; or other similar governmental signs or devices. Such signs are authorized within all rights-of-way or other properties controlled by such governmental body, agency or authority; and at such other locations as a governmental body, governmental agency or public authority may direct.

(2) **Property address signs.**

Property addresses are required by Camden County and therefore considered "official governmental signs." Such signs, when displayed on a building or mailbox, shall consist of lettering no larger than 5 inches in height on a building or 3 inches in height on a mailbox.

(3) **Incidental signs.**

Incidental signs (as defined in this Article) of no more than 1 square foot in area are exempt.

Sec. 704. Prohibited signs.

The following types of signs are prohibited:

(a) **Abandoned signs.**

Signs that have been abandoned for 6 months or more are not allowed and must be removed..

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

Signs other than automatic changeable copy signs that flash, blink, rotate, revolve or have moving parts, are not allowed. Signs containing reflective elements that sparkle in the sunlight or that contain luminous paint that glows in the dark are not allowed.

(c) **Attached and painted signs.**

Signs that are painted on or attached to trees, fence posts, utility poles, or rocks or other natural features, are not allowed.

(d) **Banners.**

Banners are not allowed except as provided for temporary signage under Sec. 709(h)(1) of this Article.

(e) **Dilapidated signs.**

Signs that are dilapidated or in such condition as to create a hazard, nuisance or to be unsafe or fail to comply with any provision of the building code of the County are not allowed.

(f) **Display of nudity.**

Signs displaying nudity, as defined by the State of Georgia at O.C.G.A. Section 32-6-75 (b) (1), are not allowed.

(g) **Festoons.**

Strings of light bulbs and strings of ribbons, tinsel, small flags, pennants, streamers, pinwheels or other similar devices designed to move in the wind, are not allowed, except as provided for temporary signage for a special business promotion event under Sec. 709(h)(2)b of this Article.

(h) **Inflatable signs.**

A sign that is intended to be expanded by air or other gas for its proper display or support is not allowed.

(i) **Obscene signs.**

Obscene signs, as defined by the State of Georgia at O.C.G.A. Section 16-12-80 (b), are not allowed.

(j) **Obstructions.**

No sign shall obstruct any fire escape, window, door or opening usable for fire prevention or suppression, or prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof. No sign shall be affixed to a fire escape or interfere with any opening required for ventilation.

(k) **Portable signs.**

A sign designed to be transported or easily relocated and not attached to the ground, such as but not limited to the following, is not allowed, except as provided for temporary signage under Sec. 709(h)(2)a of this Article:

- (1) A sign designed to be temporarily placed upon the ground and not otherwise affixed to it by a permanent foundation.
- (2) A sign mounted on a trailer, with or without wheels.
- (3) An A-frame or sandwich board sign.
- (4) An umbrella used for advertising.

(l) **Private signs placed on public property.**

Any sign posted or erected on utility poles, governmental signs, public rights-of-way or any other public property is not allowed, except those placed by agencies of the federal, state, or local government.

(m) **Roof signs.**

Roof signs, including signs painted or adhered on roofs, are not allowed. This prohibition does not apply to the fascia portion of a mansard roof or to the face of a parapet wall, provided that the sign must not extend above the top of the mansard roof or parapet wall.

(n) **Signs imitating public warning or traffic devices.**

Any sign that displays intermittent lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance or rescue vehicles, and any sign that uses the words "stop," "danger" or other message or content in a manner that might mislead or confuse a driver, is not allowed. No red, green or yellow illuminated sign shall be permitted within 300 feet of any traffic light.

(o) **Sound or smoke emitting signs.**

A sign that emits or utilizes in any manner any sound capable of being detected on any traveled road or highway by a person with normal hearing, or a sign that emits smoke, vapor or odors, is not allowed.

(p) **Signs advertising illegal activity.**

Signs that advertise an activity illegal under local, state or federal law are not allowed.

(q) **Vehicular signs.**

Any sign that meets the definition of a “vehicular sign” contained in this Article is prohibited.

Sec. 705. General requirements applying to all signs.

(a) **Conformance to Building Codes.**

- (1) In addition to any Sign Approval required under this Article, a building permit shall be obtained from the Planning Director prior to installation or placement of any sign required to be issued a building permit under the County Building Code. All signs for which a building permit is required shall be constructed and maintained in conformance with all Building Code and Electrical Code requirements.
- (2) Plans required for issuance of a building permit for a sign shall be certified as to conformance with all structural and wind-load resistive standards of the Building Code by a qualified structural engineer when deemed necessary by the Planning Director, or be prepared using standard drawings prepared by a structural engineer or other qualified professional meeting or exceeding all requirements of the Building Code.
- (3) All signs involving internal lights or other electrical devices or circuits shall display a label certifying it as being approved by the Underwriter’s Laboratories, Inc.
- (4) All electrical service to a sign shall be in compliance with the Electrical Code.
- (5) Clearance from all electrical power lines shall be in conformance with the requirements of the Electrical Code.

(b) **Conformance to state law.**

The following applies to any sign located or to be located within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of a U.S. or State-numbered highway (or any other road designated as a “primary highway” by the State of Georgia and approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation), or located or to be located beyond 660 feet of such highway but visible and intended to be read from such highway:

- (1) Such sign shall comply with all requirements of the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Act, O.C.G.A. 32-6-70 *et seq.*
- (2) Such sign shall comply with all requirements of this Article. Between the Georgia and Camden County regulations, such sign must comply with the most restrictive requirements with respect to each and every item of regulation.

(c) **Sign maintenance.**

- (1) All signs, together with all their supports, braces, guys and anchors shall be kept in good repair and, unless constructed of galvanized or noncorrosive metal, shall be given a protective coating as necessary to maintain a clean appearance and safe condition.
- (2) All signs shall be maintained in accordance with all County regulations, including any regulations concerning nuisances and vegetation.

(d) **Minimum sign setback.**

- (1) No portion of a sign face or sign structure is authorized to extend into or above, or be anchored or placed in any portion of a public right-of-way (except official governmental signs).
- (2) Unless provided otherwise in this Article, all signs on a property are subject to the setback requirements for accessory uses under the property’s zoning classification, but in no case may any portion of a sign shall be located less than 10 feet from a public right-of-way or any other front, side or rear property line.

[Ed. Note: Section 705(d)(2) was clarified by interpretation on April 6, 2010.]

(e) **Principal freestanding signs; distance between.**

- (1) Signs 64 square feet in area or less.

Each principal freestanding sign having an area of 64 square feet or less shall be located at least 50 feet from any other principal freestanding sign on the same side of the street.

- (2) Signs from 64 square feet to 300 square feet in area.

Each principal freestanding sign having an area from 64 square feet to 300 square feet shall be located at least 100 feet from any other freestanding sign, on the same side of the street, having an area of more than 64 square feet.

- (3) Signs greater than 300 square feet in area.

Each principal freestanding sign having an area greater than 300 square feet shall be located at least 500 feet from any other freestanding sign, on the same side of the street, having an area greater than 300 square feet, and at least 100 feet from any other freestanding sign, on the same side of the street, having an area greater than 64 square feet.

- (4) Distance measurements are to be made horizontally from the nearest edge of each sign.

- (5) The minimum distance between signs may be reduced upon approval by the Planning Director that the distance cannot be met due to the location of existing signs on separate but adjoining lots. Such reduction shall be the minimum required in order to maintain the greatest separation possible from such existing signs.

(f) **Projecting signs.**

Wall signs attached flat against a wall may extend not more than 24 inches from the wall. Signs attached at an angle to a wall may extend outward from the wall of a building not more than five feet.

(g) **Canopy, mansard, marquee and parapet signs.**

- (1) A canopy sign is not allowed to extend above or below the face of the canopy on which it is placed.
- (2) A mansard sign is not allowed to extend above the top of the fascia of the mansard roof on which it is placed.
- (3) A marquee sign is not allowed to extend above or below the face of the marquee on which it is placed.
- (4) A parapet sign is not allowed to extend above the top of the parapet wall on which it is placed.

(h) **Ground clearance under signs.**

- (1) Projecting signs shall provide a minimum of 8 feet of clearance from ground level to the bottom of the sign.
- (2) Under-canopy signs of greater than 4 square feet shall be rigidly mounted, and there shall be 8 feet of clearance below the base of any rigidly mounted under-canopy sign. There shall be a minimum clearance of 7 feet below the base of any non-rigidly mounted under-canopy sign.
- (3) Awning, mansard and marquee signs shall be no less than 8 feet above the ground when erected over pedestrian walkways at the lowest extremity of the sign.

(i) **Visibility clearance area.**

- (1) No portion of a sign face, and no portion of a sign structure wider than 12 inches, between the heights of 2½ feet (30 inches) and 15 feet shall be located within 20 feet of the intersection of the right-of-way lines of streets, roads, highways or railroads, or within 20 feet of the intersection of a street right-of-way and either edge of a driveway.

- (2) No sign shall be erected or maintained where, by reason of its position, wording, illumination, size, shape or color, it may obstruct the view of oncoming vehicles or impair, obscure, interfere with the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic control sign, signal or device.

(j) **Automatic changeable copy signs.**

Automatic changeable copy signs are only allowed on commercial and industrial properties.

(k) **Illuminated signs.**

(1) Traffic Control.

No sign illumination device shall resemble an official traffic control or warning sign, nor shall it hide from view or distract from any traffic or street sign or signal.

(2) Hazards.

Illumination devices shall be placed, filtered and shielded so direct rays will not be cast into the eyes of drivers or pedestrians.

(3) Light Pollution.

Illumination devices shall be so placed and so shielded that light from the sign itself will not be directly cast into any residential district, sleeping rooms in any district or the eyes of an automobile or vehicular driver.

(4) Neon Tubes.

No sign that has exposed neon tubes or other exposed tubes containing luminescent gas shall be used outside a building.

(5) Exposed Wires.

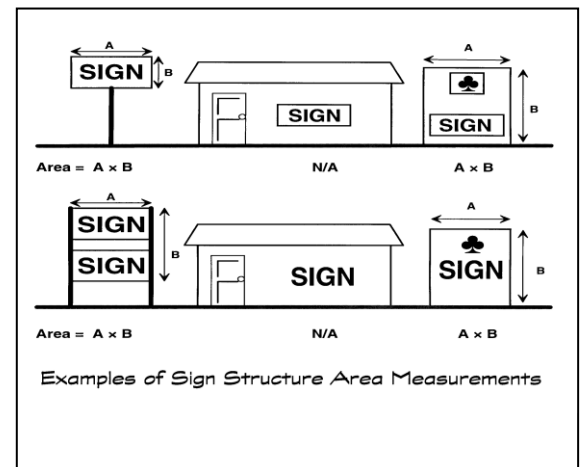
No sign may have exposed electrical wires.

(6) Hours of Illumination.

No sign shall be illuminated between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. except for those hours during which the premises on which the sign is located is open for business.

(7) Types of illumination.

- a. *Externally illuminated sign.* An externally-illuminated sign, when permitted, shall have concealed wiring and controls, and shall have shielded and screened external light sources.
- b. *Internally illuminated sign.* Internally-illuminated signs (including internally channeled or reverse-channeled letters), where permitted, must completely shield the source of light from direct view.

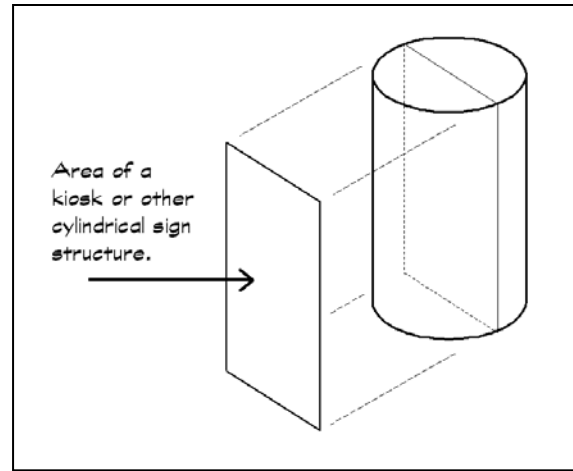


Sec. 706. Measurement of sign area and height.

(a) **Computation of sign area.**

In order to determine compliance with the maximum allowable sign areas permitted under this Article, the following shall establish how sign areas are measured.

- (1) The area of a sign shall be computed as the area within the smallest rectangle enclosing the limits of the surface of a sign whereon the sign face or sign modules may be placed, including all portions of a sign structure that provide a background for the sign face but are not intended to contain any message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature.
- (2) For signs that have no identifiable frame or border, the smallest rectangle that includes all of the sign's words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements intended to convey the sign's message shall establish the area of the sign.
- (3) For a kiosk or other cylindrical sign structure, the area of the sign shall be the largest measurement achieved from any view of the sign structure. Measurements shall be made as a flat plane rectangle projected on or bisecting the sign structure.
- (4) Manual changeable copy signs. For any sign on which any of the words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements are routinely changed or are intended to be changed from time to time, the sign area shall include the entire area within which the sign copy may be placed, together with any frame or material, texture or color forming an integral part of the sign face or the structure upon which it is placed.
- (5) For project entrance signs or other signs that are imposed, mounted or painted on a wall or other decorative structure, the sign area shall be computed as only that portion of such wall or other decorative structure that is discernibly devoted to the support of the sign or, by its design or architectural treatment, intended to provide a background or frame for the sign.
- (6) Treatment of open spaces.
- (7) Multi-faced signs.

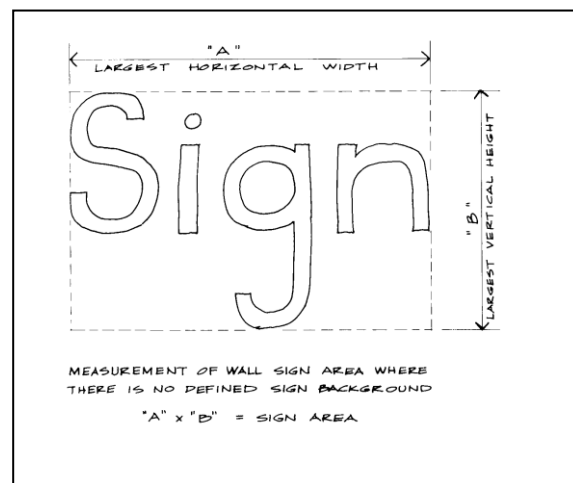


a. Double-faced signs.

For double-faced signs, when the sign face surfaces are parallel (back-to-back), or where the smallest angle formed between the two faces is 60 degrees or less, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the largest side. For double-faced signs where the interior angle formed by the faces is more than 60 degrees, the area of the sign shall be the total area of both sides.

b. Signs with three or more faces.

For sign structures having only three faces and the interior angle formed between all of the faces is 60 de-



grees, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the largest side. For all other multi-faced signs with three or more sides, the area of the sign shall be the largest total of all faces that are joined by an interior angle of more than 60 degrees that can be viewed from any one direction.

(b) **Measurement of sign height.**

The height of a sign shall be equal to the vertical distance from the average grade at the base of the sign, or from the crown of the roadway of the nearest street within 50 feet of any portion of the sign, to the highest point of any portion of the sign, whichever results in the greater sign height. Any earthen berms and elevated foundations supporting signs, sign posts or other sign supports shall be included in the height of the sign.

Sec. 707. Principle signs permitted by land use category.

The following Table 7.1 and Table 7.2 present the maximum number, area, height, illumination and other restrictions relating to specific types of signs that are permitted by right in each zoning district and land use category. Additional signage is permitted by this Article under Sec. 708 for other permanent signage and Sec. 709 for temporary signs. Modifications to these requirements may be granted as an appeal under the provisions of Sec. 711(b) of this Article.

(a) **Maximum signage on a property.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the total area of all signs permitted under this Section on a property shall not exceed the following:

(1) In the C-N zoning district:

The number of signs shall be limited to three for each street on which the establishment fronts. The maximum size of a sign for any business establishment shall be 64 square feet.

(2) In the C-G, C-I, I-R and I-G zoning districts:

- a. On any lot occupied by a single tenant in a commercial or industrial zoning district, not more than four signs of any type (principal freestanding or building signs) having a total area of not more than 750 square feet shall be permitted.
- b. Additional principal freestanding signs, each of which does not exceed the maximum allowed on Table 7.1, are permitted providing they are spaced not closer than 300 linear feet from any other such sign structure on the same side of the street.

(b) **Principal Freestanding Sign—One Use on Property.**

“Principal Freestanding Sign—One Use on Property” on Table 7.1 applies to a lot where there is only one use being made of the property, such as but not limited to one single-family or two-family dwelling, one multi-family development, one business or institutional occupant. A predominantly agricultural property, with or without a residence on the property, is considered a single agricultural use. Properties that are vacant but zoned or offered for sale or lease for a particular land use also fall under this category.

(c) **Principal Freestanding Sign—Planned Center.**

“Principal Freestanding Sign—Planned Center” on Table 7.1 applies to a single commercial or industrial property that is designed or intended for occupancy by two or more principal businesses that are separately-owned and have no corporate relationship. A planned center may consist of several businesses in a single building or individual businesses in several buildings on the property.

(d) **Project entrance signs.**

Project entrance signs are signs located at an entrance into a residential subdivision, into a multi-family development, or into an office, commercial or industrial park consisting of two or more lots or condominium units. Each project entrance sign shall not exceed the number, area or height limitations shown on Table 7.1.

(e) **Building signs.**

For building signs permitted on Table 7.2, the following shall apply:

- (1) For single-occupant buildings, the maximum allowed area for a building sign on a wall shall be calculated on the basis of the percentage of the entire area of said wall, including all windows and doors.
- (2) For multi-tenant buildings, the maximum allowed area for each building sign for each tenant shall be calculated on the basis of the percentage of the area of the wall, including all windows and doors, of that portion of the structure occupied by the tenant.
- (3) In no case shall a window sign obscure more than 25% of a window.
- (4) Projecting and under-canopy signs shall be limited to no more than 1 per tenant on a property, and each tenant shall have no more than 1 projecting sign or under-canopy sign.

(f) **PD Planned Development.**

For signs in a Planned Development zoned PD, each property or individual project within the Planned Development shall conform to the sign regulations established as part of the zoning approval for the PD. If no such regulations exist, each property or individual development within a Planned Development shall conform to the provisions of this Article in accordance with the land use category of said property or individual development.

(g) **CP zoning district.**

Signs permitted in the CP zoning district are restricted to the following:

- (1) One non-illuminated freestanding or building sign not exceeding 20 square feet in area may be erected for each use permitted in a Conservation Preservation district.
- (2) Other signs approved by the county commission on a case-by-case basis.

Table 7.1: Principal Freestanding Signs—By Zoning and Land Use						
A- F, A- R, R- 1, R- 2, R- 3, MHP			C- N	C- G, I- R, I- G, RVD	C- I	
Agricultural Property	Single- and Two- Family Residential	Multi- Family Property	Neighborhood Commercial Property	General Commercial or Industrial	Interstate Commercial Property	
Principal Freestanding Sign—One Use on Property:						
Max. Number	1 per lot	1 per lot	N/A	1 per street frontage	1 per 300 feet of street frontage	1 per 300 feet of street frontage
Maximum sign area	20 sq. feet	6 sq. feet		64 sq. feet	200 sq. feet	200 sq. feet
Maximum height	6 feet	5 feet		10 feet	35 feet ¹	80 feet
Illumination	External only	Not Allowed		Not Allowed	Internal or External	Internal or External
Principal Freestanding Sign—Planned Center:						
Max. Number	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 per street frontage	1 per 300 feet of street frontage	1 per 300 feet of street frontage
Maximum sign area				128 sq. feet	300 sq. feet	300 sq. feet
Maximum height				10 feet	35 feet	35 feet
Illumination				Not Allowed	Internal or External	Internal or External
Project Entrance Sign:						
Max. Number	N/A	2 per project entrance ²	2 per project entrance ²	N/A	1 per project entrance ³	N/A
Maximum sign area		64 sq. feet	100 sq. feet		128 sq. feet	
Maximum height		8 feet	8 feet		10 feet	
Illumination		External only	Internal or External		Internal or External	

¹ On a lot in an office or industrial park, the maximum sign height is 16 feet adjacent to the lot frontage on a U.S. or State numbered highway, and 8 feet along all other roads.

² For these developments (such as residential subdivisions and apartment complexes), project entrance signs may be either single sign or dual sign structures (as illustrated under the definition of “project entrance sign”).

³ For these developments (such as office and industrial parks), project entrance signs can only be single sign structures (as illustrated under the definition of “project entrance sign”).

Table 7.2: Permitted Building Signage—By Zoning and Land Use

	A- F, A- R, R- 1, R- 2, R- 3, MHP			C- N	C- G, I- R, I- G, RVD	C- I
	Agricultural Property	Single- and Two- Family Residential	Multi- Family Property	Neighborhood Commercial Property	General Commercial or Industrial	Interstate Commercial Property
Wall, awning, under- canopy, projecting & window signs on a building:						
Max. number of all building signs	1 per building	1 per dwelling	1 per building	2 per tenant per street frontage ⁴	3 per tenant per street frontage ⁵	3 per tenant per street frontage ⁵
Maximum sign area	2 square feet	2 square feet	10 square feet	25% of the area of the wall on which the sign is placed, up to a maximum of 64 square feet	25% of the area of the wall on which the sign is placed, up to a maximum of 100 square feet ⁵	25% of the area of the wall on which the sign is placed, up to a maximum of 100 square feet ⁶
Additional Under- Canopy Sign	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	1 per tenant, up to 4 square feet in area	1 per tenant, up to 4 square feet in area	N/A
Illumination	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	External only	External only	Internal or External	Internal or External
Signs on a free- standing canopy:						
Max. number of all canopy signs	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	1 per canopy face	1 per canopy face	1 per canopy face
Maximum sign area				10% of the area of each canopy face	15% of the area of each canopy face	15% of the area of each canopy face
Maximum sign area of largest sign				9 square feet	18 square feet	18 square feet
Illumination				External only	Internal or External	Internal or External

⁴ Additional wall signage is allowed for each tenant (up to a maximum of three signs) when the tenant meets one or more of the following conditions: a) exceeds 50,000 square feet of floor area (add one sign), or b) exceeds 100,000 square feet of floor area (add two signs).

⁵ For a tenant occupying 50,000 to 100,000 square feet of floor area, the maximum sign area is 150 square feet, and for a tenant occupying more than 100,000 square feet of floor area, the maximum sign area is 200 square feet.

Sec. 708. Other permanent signage.**(a) Miscellaneous freestanding signs.**

Freestanding signs in addition to those shown on Table 7.1 are allowed as accessory uses on a property occupied by any multi-family, commercial, industrial or institutional use if each sign complies with all of the following:

- (1) Within the area between a street and the minimum front principal building setback required for the zoning district, additional signs may be located within 3 feet of driveways that provide access into or from the property. There shall be no more than 2 such signs per driveway and each such sign shall not exceed 3 square feet in sign area nor be more than 2½ feet (30 inches) in height.
- (2) Miscellaneous signs located farther from the street than the minimum required front principal building setback shall be allowed as follows:
 - a. One miscellaneous sign not to exceed 32 square feet in area or more than 8 feet in height may be located on the property for each principal building on the lot, or for each drive-through service window on the building.
 - b. Other miscellaneous freestanding signs are allowed beyond the minimum front principal building setback, provided that such signs are no more than 4 square feet in sign area nor more than 3 feet in height (except signs that are required by law to be higher than 3 feet, such as those marking a handicapped parking space).

(b) Flags.

Any cloth, paper, thin plastic or similar pliable material that is displayed by hanging or flying from a flag-pole is allowed as an accessory use on any property that is used in any land use category if it complies with all of the following:

- (1) No more than 3 flags may be displayed on a lot occupied by an agricultural use, a single-family or two-family residential use, or a multi-family residential use. No single flag shall be larger than 24 square feet in size (e.g., 4' x 6'), and the total area for all flags collectively shall not exceed 45 square feet (e.g., three 3' x 5').
- (2) No more than 3 flags may be displayed on a lot occupied by a commercial use, an industrial use, or a institutional use. No single flag shall be larger than 40 square feet in size (e.g., 5' x 8'), and the total area for all flags collectively shall not exceed 72 square feet (e.g. three 4' x 6').

(c) Outdoor recreational facility.

Signs erected on walls, fences, dugouts, press boxes, stadium stands, concession stands, ticket booths, benches and locker rooms on any outdoor recreational facility (such as a baseball field or soccer field) is permitted with the following restrictions:

- (1) Each individual sign shall not exceed 8 feet in height and 32 square feet in area and must face inward to the recreational activity area.
- (2) There shall be no limit on the number of signs per site provided that such sign faces are not visible from neighboring residential property or public rights-of-way.

(d) Multi-screen cinema.

- (1) Cinema changeable copy board signs.
 - a. For the purposes of these regulations, a cinema changeable copy board sign is considered a "principal sign."

- b. One freestanding cinema changeable copy board sign is allowed for each multi-screen cinema for each street frontage.
 - c. The changeable copy board shall be constructed in such a fashion so as to prevent wind, rain or other elements from altering the position of the sign copy.
 - d. The height of a freestanding cinema changeable copy board sign shall not exceed 20 feet.
 - e. The width of a freestanding cinema changeable copy board sign face shall not exceed the width of the freestanding sign structure.
 - f. One cinema changeable copy board wall sign or marquee sign shall be permitted for each multi-screen cinema; provided, however, if theaters are contained within separate buildings, then one such wall or marquee sign shall be permitted for each building.
- (2) Building signs on a multi-screen cinema.

In addition to the number of building signs allowed on Table 7.2, a multi-screen cinema may have 1 additional wall sign for each theater within the building, provided that the total area of all building signage shall not exceed 25% of the area of the wall.

(e) **Rear entrance signs.**

In planned centers that contain tenant spaces with rear entrance doors, a sign shall be located on each tenant's rear door as follows:

- (1) Rear entrance signs shall be required for each tenant within a planned center for the purpose of identifying each tenant for emergency service vehicles. The developer or owner of the planned center shall be responsible to the County for proper rear entrance signage of tenants, including proper maintenance.
- (2) The area of rear entrance identification signs shall not be less than 18 inches wide and 12 inches high, and the copy shall include the name of the business and the street number. Lettering and numbering shall be at least two inches in height and shall be Helvetica medium style or an equivalent typeface.
- (3) Rear entrance door signs are required by Camden County for public safety purposes and are therefore considered "official governmental signs."

(f) **Billboards.**

- (1) Billboard; defined.

A Billboard is a principal freestanding sign that exceeds the sign area limitations established or otherwise approved for principal freestanding signs under Table 7.1 of this Article.

- (2) Billboards; where allowed.

A billboard may be allowed individually as a principal use or as an additional freestanding sign on a property under the following conditions:

- a. *Zoning districts where allowed.* The sign must be located in a C-N Neighborhood Commercial, C-G General Commercial, C-I Interchange Commercial, I-R Restricted Industrial or I-G General Industrial zoning district, or within an area designated within a PD Planned Development for commercial or industrial use, within 660 feet of Interstate Highway 95. [Amended April 21, 2009]
- b. *Number of signs per location.* Only one sign shall be allowed to face the same direction per location. This allows a double-faced sign consistent with Sec. 706(a)(7)a (back-to-back or V formation), but prohibits two signs (side-by-side) facing the same direction.
- c. *Spacing.* Billboards shall be no less than 500 feet apart, measuring from the two closest points, and shall comply with the spacing requirements of Sec. 705(e)(3).

- d. *Marsh and historic area locations prohibited.* No sign shall be placed in or obstruct the view of a marshland area or an area of designated historic interest.
- e. *Limitations at interchanges.* Billboards located near expressway interchanges shall be limited as follows:
 - 1. No more than 2 billboards may be located in each quadrant of the interchange.
 - 2. Such billboards shall be restricted to an area in each quadrant 1,200 feet long beginning 500 feet from the road that crosses the expressway or 500 feet beyond the point where the pavement begins to widen on the main travelway of the expressway to accommodate an exit or entrance ramp, whichever is farther from the interchange.

(3) Billboards; standards.

- a. *Compliance with State law.* The billboard must comply with all requirements of the State of Georgia and the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Act, or the requirements of this Article if more restrictive.
- b. *Uniform size.* The outside measurements of all such signs shall be 12 feet in height and 50 feet in length, with or without trim.
- c. *Illumination.* All illuminated signs shall use base-mounted fluorescent or mercury vapor lights and shall be activated by photoelectric cells. Additional lighting including, but not limited to, neon, animation and running lights is prohibited.
- d. *Height above interstate grade.* All signs shall be a minimum of ten feet above adjacent interstate pavement measuring from the lower portion of the sign face. Signs shall not exceed 70 feet in height.
- e. *Extrusions prohibited.* Extrusions beyond the face of the sign, excluding aprons, are prohibited.
- f. *Sign location.*
 - 1. Billboards shall be no less than ten feet from any property or right-of-way line.

[Ed. Note: See also the I-95 Corridor Setback restrictions of the QDO Quality Design Overlay District in Article 2 of this Development Code on locations within a QDO.]
 - 2. The billboard may not be located on or over any building.
- g. *Changeable copy signs.* An automatic changeable copy sign is not allowed to be incorporated into or be used as a billboard. Manual changeable copy shall be applied in such a fashion so as to prevent wind, rain or other elements from altering the position of the sign copy.

Sec. 709. Temporary signs.

(a) Temporary signs; allowed.

- (1) Signs in addition to those allowed under Sec. 707 are allowed on a property for the duration of a temporary event (as defined below). **Such additional signs shall not be restricted as to the message displayed on the sign**, but must comply with the provisions of this Section.
- (2) Temporary signs must comply with all requirements of this Article, except as modified by the provisions of this Section, including the prohibitions of Sec. 704 and the general requirements applying to all signs under Sec. 705.

(b) Temporary event; defined.

A temporary event is an activity having a specific duration or the end of which is related to a specific action, usually lasting for only a few days or months at a time. Temporary events include but are not limited to such activities as:

- (1) The offering of a property or premises for sale or rent.
- (2) An election, political campaign, referendum or ballot proposition put to the voters as part of city, county, state or federal governance.
- (3) Special business promotions, such as but not limited to “grand openings,” “close-out sales” and seasonal sales events.
- (4) A yard sale.
- (5) The construction of a building or development project, or the rehabilitation, remodeling or renovation of a building.
- (6) A public announcement of a special event or seasonal activity by an individual or a nonprofit organization.

(c) Duration of temporary signs.

Temporary signs may be placed on any property upon initiation of a temporary event, and must be removed upon the termination of the event. Initiation and termination of particular events shall be interpreted as follows:

- (1) Sale or lease of a building or premises.
Initiation upon the availability of the building or premises for sale or lease, and termination upon the closing of the sale or execution of the rental agreement.
- (2) Building construction or remodeling.
Initiation upon issuance of a building permit authorizing the construction, interior finish or remodeling, and termination within 7 days after issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.
- (3) Residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium under development.
Initiation upon preliminary plat or site plan approval by the County. Termination upon the sale of 75% of the lots, dwelling units or buildings in the final phase, or at the end of 12 continuous months during which no building permits have been issued for new construction within the development, whichever occurs first.
- (4) Election or political campaign.
Initiation upon the opening day of qualification of candidates, and termination within 10 days after the election of all candidates to office or resolution of all ballot questions put to the voters in the election.
- (5) Special business promotion.
Initiation upon announcement of the special sale or sales event, and termination upon its completion or 30 days after initiation, whichever occurs first. Business promotion signs may not be approved more often than 4 times each calendar year on the same property. Additional provisions apply to temporary portable signs, banners and festoons placed during a special business promotion event (see Sec. 709(h)).
- (6) Yard sale.
Initiation five days prior to the announced date of the sale, and termination at the end of the announced date.
- (7) Public announcement.

Initiation upon the placement of the sign and termination within 30 days after such placement, unless placed as a weekend sign conforming to Sec. 709(i).

(8) Other temporary events.

The initiation and termination dates for any temporary event not listed above shall be determined by the Planning Director for each temporary event, based on considerations such as: normal beginning and ending dates for such an event, the scheduled occurrence of the event, or similarities to other temporary events listed above or having previously occurred.

(d) **Number of temporary signs.**

Only one temporary sign related to each temporary event may be located on a property at any one time, except for the following:

(1) Sale or lease of a building or premises.

One freestanding sign per street frontage may be placed on a property that is available for sale or lease. For a planned center, one additional building sign may be placed on each tenant space that is available for sale or lease. During construction of a residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium development, one additional sign may be placed at each entrance into the subdivision.

(2) Residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium under development.

During construction of a residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium development: one sign per entrance into the subdivision or development or one sign per 300 feet of street frontage.

(3) Election or political campaign.

No limit.

(4) For a commercial, industrial or institutional use building containing 100,000 square feet of gross floor area or more, the following shall apply:

a. During the construction or remodeling of a commercial, industrial, or institutional use building containing 100,000 square feet of gross floor area or more, no more than two freestanding or wall signs shall be allowed, not exceeding 64 square feet in area nor more than 15 feet in height.

b. During the start-up period while a commercial, industrial or institutional use building containing 100,000 square feet of gross floor area or more is initially for sale or lease, no more than two additional freestanding signs shall be allowed, not exceeding 64 square feet in area nor more than 15 feet in height.

Table 7.3: Temporary Sign Examples ⁶			
Type of Temporary Event	Duration		Number Allowed on the Property⁷
	Event Starts	Event Ends	
Sale or Lease of a Building or Premises	When put on the market	Closing of sale or execution of lease	1 freestanding per property, 1 building sign per tenant space, 1 per subdivision entrance
Building Construction or Remodeling	Issuance of building permit	Within 7 days of issuance of C.O.	1 on the construction site
Subdivision or Condominium Project Under Development	Preliminary plat or Site Plan approval	Sale of 75% of lots or buildings, or 12 months of no building permits	1 per entrance into the subdivision or development, or 1 per 300 feet of frontage
Election or Political Campaigns	Opening day of qualification of candidates	Within 10 days after election complete	No limit
Special Business Promotion	Announcement of special sale or sale event	End of sale or 60 days, whichever occurs first	1 plus those allowed under Sec. 709(h)
Yard Sale	5 days prior to announced date of sale	At the end of the sale	1 on yard sale site
Public Announcement	Upon placement of the sign	Sign removed within 30 days of placement	1
Other Temporary Events	As determined by Planning Director	As determined by Planning Director	1

(e) Size of temporary signs.

Temporary signs are restricted to the following sign areas and sign heights, by land use category (as defined in this Development Code):

- (1) Agricultural property.
Temporary event signs located on an agricultural property shall not exceed 20 square feet in area and 6 feet in height.
- (2) Single- and two-family residential property.
Temporary event signs located on a single- or two-family residential property shall not exceed 6 square feet in area and 5 feet in height.
- (3) Residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium development.
Signage during construction of a residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium development shall not exceed 40 square feet in area and 10 feet in height.
- (4) Multi-family, mixed-use, commercial, industrial and institutional use property.
 - a. Temporary event signs located on a multi-family, mixed-use, commercial, industrial or institutional use property shall not exceed 40 square feet in area and 10 feet in height.
 - b. For a mixed-use, commercial, industrial or institutional use building containing 100,000 square feet of gross floor area or more, see Sec. 709(d)(4).

⁶ Examples only. All provisions of Sec. 709 apply in all cases.

⁷ See also weekend signs (Sec. 709(i)).

(f) **Location of temporary signs.**

- (1) All temporary signs shall be located at least 10 feet from any street right-of-way line or 25 feet from the edge of pavement (or back of curb) of a street, whichever is less. All temporary signs shall be located at least 10 feet from any side or rear property line and the pavement edge of a driveway.
- (2) Temporary signs are not allowed to be placed within or over a public street right-of-way or private street easement.
- (3) A temporary sign must be a freestanding sign or a building sign (as defined in this Article), and shall not be affixed to any tree, utility pole or official traffic sign or structure
- (4) A temporary sign must be located at least 10 feet from any other sign, including another temporary event sign.
- (5) A temporary sign shall be erected and maintained only with the permission of the owner of the property upon which the sign is located.

(g) **Construction and lighting standards of temporary signs.**

- (1) Construction standards for signs requiring building permits.
A temporary sign for which issuance of a building permit is required by the Building Code, shall meet the same engineering design and materials standards as for permanent signs as required by the Building Code.
- (2) Construction standards for signs not requiring building permits.
 - a. Nonpermanent but water-resistant construction materials may be used, such as but not limited to poster board, foam core board or illustration board.
 - b. The words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements that convey the sign's message shall be permanently applied to the sign's face. Automatic and manual changeable copy signs shall not be allowed.
- (3) Lighting.
Temporary signs shall not be illuminated.

(h) **Portable signs, banners and festoons.**

- (1) Banners.
Banners are allowed as temporary signage during a temporary event in accordance with the duration, number, size, location and lighting limitations of this Sec. 709, and in accordance with the following additional provisions:
 - a. For banners that are no more than 16 square feet in area and will be displayed for no more than 30 days and then removed, such banners shall be placed on the site or on a building in such a manner as not to create a safety hazard as determined by the Planning Director. Such banners shall not be hung as under-canopy signs, flown as flags, or used as any other form of sign.
 - b. For all other banners, such banners shall be allowed only as wall or window signage and shall be placed flush upon the wall or window to which it is attached. Such banners shall not be hung as under-canopy signs, flown as flags, or used as any other form of sign.
- (2) Special business promotion events.
During a special business promotion event, a portable sign and festoons are allowed as temporary signs on a property developed for commercial, industrial or institutional use, subject to the following restrictions.

a. Portable signs.

One portable sign per developed lot is allowed under the following conditions and requirements:

1. The maximum size of a portable sign shall not exceed 32 square feet. Said sign shall not have flashing lights or animated devices, but may be internally illuminated and may be a manual changeable copy sign.
2. The sign must be placed on the site in compliance with Sec. 709(f) of this Article.
3. To prevent wind damage to the sign or other property, the sign must be securely anchored to the site in a manner acceptable to the Planning Director.
4. All electrical connections to the sign must be in compliance with the Electrical Code as adopted by the County, and must be inspected prior to use.

b. Festoons.

Strings of light bulbs and strings of ribbons, tinsel, small flags, pennants, streamers, pinwheels or other similar devices designed to move in the wind, may be allowed as part of a special business promotion event subject to Sign Approval; provided that no part of any such festoon shall be located in, on or within 10 feet of a public right-of-way and no hazard to traffic safety shall be created.

c. Frequency and duration.

Portable signs and festoons may be allowed only in relation to a special business promotion event, subject to Sign Approval under Sec. 710(c). A special business promotion event may not be approved more often than 4 times each calendar year on the same property, regardless of the number of businesses on the property.

(i) **Weekend signs.**

Weekend signs are allowed as temporary signs under the following provisions.

(1) Location.

- a. Such signs are allowed on properties in all land use categories, except that any such sign shall not be placed within or over a street right-of-way nor affixed to any tree, utility pole or official traffic sign or structure.
- b. Such signs shall be placed and maintained only with the permission of the owner of the property upon which the sign is placed.

(2) Setback.

No setback from the street right-of-way line shall be required for a weekend sign.

(3) Size.

Such signs shall not exceed 6 square feet in area nor be more than 2½ feet (30 inches) in height.

(4) Duration.

Weekend signs shall be allowed only between Friday starting at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday ending at 8:00 p.m.

(5) Permanence.

- a. Reusable weekend signs shall consist of permanent, weather-resistant materials such as metal or durable plastic.

- b. Weekend signs intended for use only once may consist of nonpermanent but water-resistant construction materials, such as but not limited to poster board, foam core board or illustration board.
- c. The words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements that convey the sign's message shall be permanently applied to the sign's face; automatic or manual changeable copy signs shall not be allowed.

(6) Lighting.

Such signs shall not be illuminated.

Sec. 710. Sign approvals and permitting.

(a) **Sign approvals; when required.**

In addition to a building permit as may be required under the Building Code, a Sign Approval for zoning compliance first shall be issued by the Planning Director prior to installation, relocation, expansion or construction of any sign regulated under this Article except for those signs specifically exempted under Subsection (b), below.

(b) **Exemptions from requirement for sign approval.**⁸

- (1) Sign Approval will not be required for legally existing signs under the following conditions:
 - a. Replacing or altering the words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements that compose a sign's message, in whole or in part, shall not require a Sign Approval unless a structural or size change is made to the sign.
 - b. Painting, repairing, cleaning or maintaining a sign shall not require a Sign Approval unless a structural change is made.
- (2) Sign Approval is not required for the following listed signs:
 - a. Any sign that is otherwise exempt from regulation under Sec. 703 of this Article.
 - b. A principal freestanding sign on a single-family or two-family residential property allowed under Sec. 707(b) of this Article does not require a Sign Approval.
 - c. Miscellaneous freestanding signs that are allowed under Sec. 708(a) of this Article do not require a Sign Approval.
 - d. Flags that are allowed under Sec. 708(b) of this Article do not require a Sign Approval.
 - e. Outdoor recreational facility signs that are allowed under Sec. 708(c) of this Article do not require a Sign Approval.
 - f. Temporary signs that are allowed under Sec. 709 of this Article do not require a Sign Approval, except as follows:
 - 1. Sign Approval is required for portable signs and festoons placed during a temporary special business promotion event under Sec. 709(h)(2).
 - 2. Sign Approval is required for any temporary sign for which issuance of a building permit is required by the Building Code.
 - g. Any building sign less than 6 square feet in area does not require a Sign Approval.

⁸ These exemptions apply only to the requirement of issuance of a Sign Approval and do not relieve the owner of the sign from compliance with all other requirements of this Article for the particular sign.

(c) **Issuance of sign approval.**

(1) Sign approval application.

For any sign requiring Sign Approval under the provisions of this Section, a sign approval application, with the non-refundable application fee established by the Board of Commissioners, shall be submitted to the Planning Director and must include all of the applicable the information required under Sec. 710(d).

(2) Issuance of sign approval.

Once an application for a Sign Approval, complete in all respects, has been received by the Planning Director, the Director shall, within 10 business days, review the application for compliance with applicable regulations and either (a) issue the approval or (b) inform the applicant of the reasons why the approval cannot be issued. Upon determination that the application fully complies with the provisions of this Development Code, and all other applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances, the Sign Approval shall be issued by the Planning Director.

(3) Building permit required.

Issuance of a building permit as may be required by the Building or Electrical Code shall be required prior to installation, relocation, renovation, expansion, construction or reconstruction of the sign, consistent with such Sign Approval. The building permit application, with the non-refundable application fee established by the Board of Commissioners, shall be submitted to the Planning Director.

(4) Sign approval identification to be placed on the sign.

Every sign for which a Sign Approval is issued shall be plainly marked with a Camden County sign approval decal. The decal shall be placed on the sign so as to be clearly legible at eye level (5 to 6 feet from grade), and may be displayed in the lower left hand corner of the sign face or, if the sign face is more than 6 feet above grade, on the sign structure.

(5) Expiration of sign approval for uncompleted construction.

A Sign Approval shall expire if the sign for which the building permit was issued has not been substantially completed (to the extent of at least 60% completion based on the estimated cost of construction from the application for sign approval) within six months of issuance. One 6-month extension may be approved by the Planning Director for circumstances deemed extenuating and reasonable. Expiration of a Sign Approval shall automatically void any building permit issued for the construction of the sign.

(d) **Sign approval application requirements.**

(1) The application for a Sign Approval must include the following:

- a. The location of the property.
- b. The name, address and contact information of the applicant.
- c. An itemized list keyed to a site plan or building elevation at a suitable scale showing the location and size of all existing permanent signs currently on the property and all such existing signs proposed to be removed, if any.
- d. An itemized list keyed to a site plan or building elevation at a suitable scale showing the location and size of all proposed permanent signs to be located on the property and all existing signs proposed to remain (if any).
- e. The estimated cost of construction for each proposed permanent sign.
- f. Any other information as may be reasonably required by the Planning Director to determine compliance with all provisions of this Development Code.

- (2) Multi-Tenant Nonresidential Projects.
 - a. A master sign plan is required for any multi-tenant nonresidential development, such as a planned center or office or industrial park, before any signs for the development or the development's tenants may be placed on the property.
 - b. The master sign plan shall govern the placement and design of all signs within the development as to their location, type, number, materials, size, letter style and color.
 - c. A master sign plan shall include the following:
 1. The application requirements of Subparagraph (1), above.
 2. The master sign plan shall include such drawings and specifications as may be required to clearly illustrate the location, type, materials, size, letter style and color of all and every sign to be placed as permanent freestanding and building signs within the development.
 3. Master sign plans shall illustrate all proposed signs in sufficient detail so as to provide knowledgeable review and design specificity. Master sign plans shall show, describe or illustrate all signs proposed to be located on a lot and the buildings and structures therein, whether existing or new, and whether permitted by right under Sec. 707 or as other signage under Sec. 708.
 4. Signs that are otherwise exempt under this Article need not be shown on the master sign plan.

Sec. 711. Appeals.

(a) Denial of sign approval.

If an application for a Sign Approval has been denied by the Planning Director, the applicant may appeal this decision by filing a written request with the Planning Director under the provisions of the Appeals Article of this Development Code. Such appeal will be heard by the Board of Commissioners at the earliest appropriate meeting, but in no case more than 60 days after the date of the filing of the written request for appeal.

(b) Modifications to sign restrictions.

The restrictions placed on signs by this Article, including the number, type, sign area, height, illumination and location on a property or relative to other signs, may be modified as a special exception variance granted under the procedures of the Appeals Article of this Code.

- (1) Signs that are prohibited under this Article may not be approved as a special exception variance.
- (2) Master sign plan required. In addition to the requirements and standards for a special exception variance in the Appeals Article, a request for approval of a special exception variance related to signs must be supported by a master sign plan that meets the requirements of Section Sec. 710(d)(2)c.
- (3) Upon approval, the master sign plan shall supersede any conflicting restrictions and regulations of this Article for the property to which it pertains.

Sec. 712. Nonconforming signs.

See the Nonconformities Section of Article 1 of this Development Code.

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