

## APPENDIX H

# SIGNS

*The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.*

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### User notes:

**About this appendix:** Appendix H gathers in one place the various standards that regulate the construction and protection of outdoor signs. Wherever possible, the appendix provides standards in performance language, thus allowing the widest possible application.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this appendix will be considered by the IBC—Structural Code Development Committee during the 2019 (Group B) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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### SECTION H101 GENERAL

**H101.1 General.** A sign shall not be erected in a manner that would confuse or obstruct the view of or interfere with exit signs required by Chapter 10 or with official traffic signs, signals or devices. Signs and sign support structures, together with their supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation. The display surfaces of signs shall be kept neatly painted or posted at all times.

**H101.2 Signs exempt from permits.** The following signs are exempt from the requirements to obtain a *permit* before erection:

1. Painted nonilluminated signs.
2. Temporary signs announcing the sale or rent of property.
3. Signs erected by transportation authorities.
4. Projecting signs not exceeding 2.5 square feet (0.23 m<sup>2</sup>).
5. The changing of moveable parts of an approved sign that is designed for such changes, or the repainting or repositioning of display matter shall not be deemed an alteration.

### SECTION H102 DEFINITIONS

**H102.1 General.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein. Refer to Chapter 2 of this code for general definitions.

**COMBINATION SIGN.** A sign incorporating any combination of the features of pole, projecting and roof signs.

**DISPLAY SIGN.** The area made available by the sign structure for the purpose of displaying the advertising message.

**ELECTRIC SIGN.** A sign containing electrical wiring, but not including signs illuminated by an exterior light source.

**GROUND SIGN.** A billboard or similar type of sign that is supported by one or more uprights, poles or braces in or upon the ground other than a combination sign or pole sign, as defined by this code.

**POLE SIGN.** A sign wholly supported by a sign structure in the ground.

**PORTABLE DISPLAY SURFACE.** A display surface temporarily fixed to a standardized advertising structure that is regularly moved from structure to structure at periodic intervals.

**PROJECTING SIGN.** A sign other than a wall sign that projects from and is supported by a wall of a building or structure.

**ROOF SIGN.** A sign erected on or above a roof or parapet of a building or structure.

**SIGN.** Any letter, figure, character, mark, plane, point, marquee sign, design, poster, pictorial, picture, stroke, stripe, line, trademark, reading matter or illuminated service, which shall be constructed, placed, attached, painted, erected, fastened or manufactured in any manner whatsoever, so that the same shall be used for the attraction of the public to any place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine or merchandise, whatsoever, which is displayed in any manner outdoors. Every sign shall be classified and conform to the requirements of that classification as set forth in this chapter.

**SIGN STRUCTURE.** Any structure that supports or is capable of supporting a sign as defined in this code. A sign structure is permitted to be a single pole and is not required to be an integral part of the building.

**WALL SIGN.** Any sign attached to or erected against the wall of a building or structure, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the plane of said wall.

### SECTION H103 LOCATION

**H103.1 Location restrictions.** Signs shall not be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape or any window or door or opening used as a *means of egress* or so as to prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof. A sign shall not be attached in any form, shape or manner to a fire escape, nor be placed in such manner as to interfere with any opening required for ventilation.