

904.05 ARABIC LETTERING FOR GUIDE SIGNS**904.05.01 General**

Guide signs shall be designed in Arabic and English, with the Arabic message above the English translation. To size the signs, the actual width of the Arabic and English messages must be determined.

904.05.02 The Arabic Alphabet

The first letter in the Arabic alphabet is “aleph” which is a simple downstroke. For the purposes of the Standard Script, aleph is used to proportion the height of the letters. In developing the Standard Script, it has been determined that an aleph height of 30 cm generally corresponds to signing on freeways, while an aleph height of 24 cm corresponds to signing on arterial roads.

Figure 900.05 provides spacing criteria for Guide Sign design. Figures 900.06 through 900.17 are template guides for Arabic letters and numerals.

When designing guide signs for all Abu Dhabi roadway projects, signs to be read from freeways and expressways will have 30 cm (aleph height) Arabic lettering and 27 cm English lettering. Signs to be read from ramps and main roads will have 24 cm (aleph height) Arabic lettering and 20 cm English lettering.

904.05.03 Use of the Standard Arabic Script

The shape of each letter and number in the Standard Script is shown on a five-millimeter grid in Figures 900.06 through 900.17.

To get the actual width of a word on the guide sign, find the width of each letter shape in the Standard Script. Then multiply that width by the proportion of the aleph height in the final guide sign to the aleph height shown in the Script. Finally, add the width of each letter shape, taking into account the spacing rules for unconnected letters to obtain the total message width.

Arabic lettering is aligned on a baseline, just as in English. The location of the baseline for each letter is indicated by an arrow (V) adjacent to that letter in the Standard Script. Some letters extend

quite a distance below this baseline; therefore, the vertical spacing on the sign face should be checked and adjusted, if necessary.

The width of the message “Corniche Road” is calculated in Example 900-01 on the following page. The page numbers refer to the fourteen pages in the Standard Arabic Script for Highway Signs, Section 904.07. Aleph height was assumed to be 24 cm, slightly larger than the English 20 cm lettering. Calculations proceed right to left.

Looking at the last letter in the first word, the shape extends 43 mm below the baseline. Using the proportion of 4.8, at least 20.64 cm will be required between the Arabic and English message to avoid conflict.

904.06 GUIDE SIGN DIMENSIONS**904.06.01 Single Message Guide Signs
(Example 900-02)**

After computing the preliminary sign width (message width, arrow width, and offsets) it shall be rounded to the nearest 5 cm to get the final sign width. Changes to the adjustable base dimensions most likely will have to be made to achieve this.

Sign faces shall be detailed as per the theoretical height dimensions for a particular sign. Small variations in the spacing between the legend and the border can be used to increase or decrease the overall sign height to an even 50mm increment. However, any reduction shall be limited to 90% of the original spacing.

Changes made to achieve the recommended height and width shall be spread as evenly as possible over the appropriate adjustable dimensions. If the preliminary sign height or width is a halfway between two recommended sign heights or widths, always round to the higher size.

Center the smaller lettering with the center of the wider lettering.