

## Chapter Hy 11

### STOP SIGNS

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**Hy 11.01 Authority for regulations.** (1) Pursuant to section 85.71 (2), Wis. Stats., the commission prescribes these regulations relating to the design and installation of stop signs.

(2) These regulations supersede all previously prescribed regulations of the commission relating to stop signs.

**Hy 11.015 Effective date of regulations.** The standards for stop signs set forth in sections Hy 11.02 and 11.03 are optional 30 days after publication in the official state paper, and on and after October 1, 1961, all stop signs in place on all streets and highways within this state shall conform thereto.

**Hy 11.02 Design of standard stop sign.** (1) **SHAPE.** The standard stop sign shall be a true octagon positioned with two sides horizontal.

(2) **SIZE.** The minimum size of a stop sign shall be 24 inches between any two parallel edges. (In rural districts a minimum size of 30 inches is recommended.)

(3) **WORDING.** The word "STOP" shall be in rounded letters having a height of at least one-third of the vertical dimension of the sign. Except for the use of the message "4-Way" where appropriate, secondary messages, such as "Thru Traffic," are not permitted on this sign.

(4) **COLORS OF BACKGROUND AND LETTERING.** The color of the background of the stop sign shall be a bright, clear red, and the letters shall be white or silver.

(5) **ILLUMINATION OR REFLECTORIZATION.** (a) All stop signs shall be illuminated or reflectorized, at least in the lettering.

(b) Illumination may be by white floodlight, or by fixed white light in the letters. In addition to illumination or reflectORIZATION, a single flashing red signal in operation both by day and by night may be placed just above the sign. Such flashing signal shall comply with chapter Hy 16.

(c) Reflectorization shall be by white, silver or clear reflecting units or reflecting material in the letters, with or without red reflecting material on the background.

(d) To meet the requirements of these regulations, the reflecting units or material shall be specifically designed for and capable of redirecting light falling on a sign from a motor vehicle's headlamps back to the driver of the vehicle, and such reflectivity shall be considerably greater than that of a surface covered with a conventional paint or enamel of the same color.

(6) **BORDER.** Stop signs shall have a white or silver border which shall be reflectorized when the red background of the sign is reflectorized.

**Hy 11.03 Installation of stop signs. (1) RURAL HIGHWAYS. (a) Mounting.** Stop signs shall be erected on a suitable standard or support adequate to maintain the signs at the required height, location, and position. It is desirable that stop signs be erected on separate posts rather than with other types of signs.

(b) *Height.* Stop signs shall be erected so that the bottom of the sign is not less than 4 feet 6 inches above the centerline grade of the roadway, and where parking is likely to occur or where other obstructions are present the height of the bottom of these signs should be at least 7 feet but not more than 9 feet.

(c) *Location.* Stop signs shall be erected at the point where the vehicle is to stop or as near thereto as practical. They shall be erected on the right-hand side of the road facing traffic they are intended to control and as nearly as practical at right angles to the centerline of the road. The signs shall be erected not closer than 10 feet nor farther than 40 feet from the near edge of the arterial highway, and shall be as close as practical to the edge of the highway they are intended to control, but in any event not more than 10 feet from the edge of that highway.

(2) **CITY AND VILLAGE STREETS. (a) Mounting.** Stop signs shall be erected on a suitable standard or support adequate to maintain the signs at the required height, location, and position.

(b) *Height.* Stop signs shall be erected so that the bottom of the sign is not less than 7 feet nor more than 9 feet above the centerline grade of the roadway where parked cars may obscure the sign. Where conditions permit, stop signs may be erected at the heights specified in subsection (1).

(c) *Location.* 1. Stop signs shall be erected at the point where the vehicle is to stop or as near thereto as possible. They shall be erected on the right-hand side of the street facing traffic they are intended to control, and as nearly as practical at right angles to the centerline of the street.

2. Stop signs shall be approximately 3 feet in advance of the crosswalk in the direction of approaching traffic. In curbed roadway sections, the left edge of the sign shall be as close to the curb as is practical (approximately 1 foot), but not more than 3 feet from the face of curb. Where there is no curb, signs shall be as close to the edge of the traveled way as practical.

3. Where possible, stop signs shall be so located that their visibility will be unobstructed for at least 150 feet when viewed from a driver's position in the outer traffic lane.

4. Where the visibility of a sign may be impaired by stopped buses or other larger vehicles, or where the sign must be placed where it will not be visible for at least 150 feet, an auxiliary stop sign shall be erected in either the far-left or near-left position at the standard height and location with respect to distance from both roadways.

(3) **INSTALLATION UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS. (a)** All of the foregoing regulations with respect to the height and location of stop signs are for normal conditions, and shall be applicable wherever possible.

In special cases, where exact conformance to these regulations would not result in the best installation, the sign shall be erected where it will best serve the purpose for which it is intended.

(b) Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prohibit the use of more than one stop sign on each approach to an arterial highway, provided that all signs are of standard design and one is erected in conformity to these regulations.

Hy 11.04 Permissive interim standards for stop signs. (1) EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF INTERIM STANDARDS. Prior to October 1, 1961, the use of stop signs which conform to the standards established by this section is approved including their refinishing and re-use.

(2) GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS. All standard stop signs shall have the following general characteristics:

(a) *Shape*. A true octagon positioned with two sides horizontal.

(b) *Size*. 24" between any two parallel edges, or larger in multiples of 6 inches.

(c) *Wording*. "STOP" in rounded letters closely approximating 8" in height and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " stroke for 24" signs, to be increased proportionately for larger signs.

(3) DETAILED DESIGN OF STOP SIGNS. The various types of standard stop signs shall have the following details of design.

(4) STANDARD PLAIN STOP SIGNS. Colors: Black letters and border on yellow background.

(5) STANDARD STOP SIGN WITH BACKGROUND REFLECTORIZED. (a) *Colors*. Black letters and border on yellow reflecting background.

(b) *Reflectorization*. Entire background of sign shall be rendered reflecting with the lettering and border unreflectorized.

(6) STANDARD STOP SIGN WITH WORDING REFLECTORIZED.

(a) *Colors*: 1. Where unit reflectors known as "buttons" are used, the letters shall be yellow on a black panel covering the central portion of the sign, yellow on the remainder of the background, and a black border.

2. Where the entire stroke of letter is reflectORIZED, the letters shall be placed on a black panel as in 1. above.

(b) *Reflectorization*: 1. By crystal or canary unit reflecting elements (buttons).

2. By light colored metal, glass or beaded material of satisfactory reflecting properties.

(7) STANDARD STOP SIGN WITH PANEL REFLECTORIZED. (a) *Colors*. Black letters and border on a yellow or light colored reflecting background panel covering the central portion of the sign, with yellow on the remainder of the background.

(b) *Reflectorization*. Yellow or light colored material rendered reflecting over its entire surface.

(8) SIZE OF SIGNS IN CITIES AND VILLAGES. Stop signs measuring 20" or more between parallel edges are approved for use on city or village streets except those streets carrying state or county routes or on other major traffic thoroughfares.

(9) INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS. (a) *Rural highways.* 1. Mounting. The sign shall be erected on a separate standard of suitable material.

2. Height. The center of the sign shall be as near 4' 0" above the centerline grade of the road as is practical.

3. Location. The sign shall be placed on the right-hand side of the road facing traffic, not closer than 10 feet nor more than 40 feet from the near edge of the arterial highway. The sign shall be 5 to 15 feet from the edge of the road it controls.

(b) *City and village streets.* 1. Mounting. The sign shall be erected on a metal standard or wood post, unless other suitable support for the sign is available.

2. Height. The center of the sign shall be not less than 5 feet nor more than 8 feet above the centerline of the roadway, where parked cars may obscure the sign. Where conditions permit, the sign may be mounted as in paragraph (a) above.

3. Location. a. The stop sign shall be erected facing traffic, on the right-hand side of the road, approximately 3 feet in advance of the crosswalk in the direction of approaching traffic, and as close to the curb as is practical taking into consideration the possibility of damage by large trucks, etc. Where possible, the sign shall be so located that its visibility will be unobstructed for at least 100 feet when viewed from a driver's position in the outer traffic lane.

b. Where the visibility of a stop sign will be obstructed by stopped buses, trolley coaches or other large vehicles, or where the sign must be so located that it will not be visible for at least 100 feet when viewed from a driver's position in the outer lane, an auxiliary stop sign shall be erected in either the far-left or near-left location.

4. Special installation. All of the above regulations for the erection of stop signs are for normal conditions and shall be used wherever possible. For special cases, where these regulations will not result in the best installation, the sign shall be erected where it will have the greatest visibility and best serve the purpose for which it is intended. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prohibit the use of more than one stop sign provided all signs are of standard design and one is erected in conformity to these regulations.