

Chapter Hy 12

SCHOOL SIGNS

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History: Chapter Hy 12 as it existed on August 31, 1962 was repealed and a new chapter Hy 12 was created effective September 1, 1962.

Hy 12.01 General. (1) **AUTHORITY FOR THESE RULES.** Pursuant to sections 118.08 (3) and 349.11 (5), Wis. Stats., the Commission prescribes these rules relating to the design and installation of the following signs:

- School Advance
- School Speed Limit
- School Crossing
- School Crossing Advance
- Drive Carefully in School Zones

(2) **PERMISSIVE INTERIM STANDARDS.** Signs which comply with chapter Hy 12 as published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register for April, 1967, may be used until January 1, 1976, but after December 31, 1972 all new school sign installations and after December 31, 1975, all signs covered by this Chapter and their installation shall comply with these rules.

(3) **MINOR VARIATIONS IN SIGN DESIGN.** Signs shall conform to the detailed design specifications given in these rules. Minor variations in size, stroke and shape of letters and numerals, the width of borders, and the size of signs are permitted.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. (1) and (2), Register, September, 1966, No. 129, eff. 10-1-66; am. (2), Register, April, 1967, No. 136, eff. 5-1-67; am. (2), Register, September, 1970, No. 177, eff. 10-1-70; am. (1) and (2), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.

Hy 12.02 Detailed design of signs. (1) **SCHOOL ADVANCE, SCHOOL CROSSING AND SCHOOL CROSSING ADVANCE SIGNS.** (a) *Shape.* School Advance, School Crossing and School Crossing Advance signs shall be a pentagon with the point up.

(b) *Size.* The standard size and minimum size School Advance, School Crossing and School Crossing Advance signs shall be 30 inches by 30 inches.

(c) *Message and border.* The message on School Advance, School Crossing and School Crossing Advance signs shall be a stylized symbol depicting two children walking. The School Crossing symbol is the same as on the other two signs except that it includes a representation of the crosswalk lines. The design of the symbols shall conform in its essentials to the standard designs on file in the Division of Highways. The width of the border on a standard size sign shall be

$\frac{1}{8}$ inch and the margin shall be $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. The symbols and border for an enlarged size sign shall be increased proportionally.

(d) *Color.* The background of the sign shall be highway yellow. The symbols and the border shall be black.

(2) **SPEED LIMIT SIGN FOR USE AT OR IN ADVANCE OF A SCHOOL OR SCHOOL CROSSING SIGN.** (a) *Shape.* A School Speed Limit sign consists of an assembly containing a Speed Limit sign which is a vertical rectangle, above which is a School panel which is a horizontal rectangle and below which there may be a supplementary panel which is also a horizontal rectangle. All three parts of the School Speed Limit sign may be combined into one sign having the three described panels.

(b) *Size.* The standard and minimum size of the Speed Limit portion of the assembly shall be 24 inches by 30 inches, of the School panel shall be 24 inches by 8 inches, and of the supplementary panel shall be 24 inches by 10 inches.

(c) *Message and border.* On the standard size sign the words "Speed Limit" shall be in rounded letters with a height of 4 inches and a stroke of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; the numerals shall have a height of 10 inches and a stroke of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the word "School" shall be in rounded letters 4 inches high and stroke of $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; the words "When Children Are Present", if used, shall be in rounded letters 2 inches high with a stroke of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. The border, and the separator between panels if all messages are combined on one sign, shall be $\frac{5}{8}$ inch and the margin shall be $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. On signs larger than the standard, the dimensions of message and border shall be increased proportionately.

(d) *Color.* The lettering and border shall be black on all parts of the School Speed Limit sign. The background of the "School" panel shall be yellow, and the background of the remainder of the sign assembly shall be white.

(e) *Variable Message Signs.* The basic, shape, message, legend layout and colors of School Speed Limit signs which display different messages at different times shall conform insofar as practical to these standards, but if internally illuminated, the signs may show a white message on a black background.

(3) **DRIVE CAREFULLY IN SCHOOL ZONES SIGN.** (a) *Shape.* A Drive Carefully In School Zones sign shall be a rectangle mounted with its longer sides horizontal.

(b) *Size.* 1. The standard and minimum size of this sign shall be 18 inches by 40 inches.

2. The size of this sign may be increased to not more than 24 inches by 54 inches.

(c) *Message and border.* The words "Drive Carefully In School Zones" shall be in rounded letters, and the words "Drive Carefully" and "School Zones" shall be 5 inches in height and shall have an $\frac{11}{16}$ -inch stroke. The word "In" shall be $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and shall have a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch stroke. The width of the border on a standard size sign shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and the margin shall be $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. The above dimensions shall apply to signs 18 inches by 40 inches, and the lettering and border for larger signs shall be proportionally larger.

(d) *Color.* The lettering and border shall be black and the background of the sign shall be white.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; r. cr. (3) and (4), Register, September, 1966, No. 129, eff. 10-1-66; am. (1), (2), r. (3) and (4), and renum. (5) to be (3), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.

Hy 12.03 Installation of school signs. (1) **RURAL HIGHWAYS.** School Advance, School Crossing and School Crossing Advance signs shall be erected on a standard of suitable material. The bottom of the signs shall be not less than 5 feet nor more than 9 feet above the centerline grade of the roadway. The signs shall be placed on the right-hand side of the road facing traffic. They shall be 6 to 12 feet from the edge of the traveled way where there is no curb or guardrail. Where there is raised curb or guardrail, the nearest edge of the sign shall be approximately 2 feet outside the curb or guardrail. The School Advance signs shall be located not less than 700 feet nor more than 1,000 feet in advance of the nearest limits of the school property. School Crossing Advance signs shall be located not less than 700 feet nor more than 1,000 feet in advance of the crosswalk. School Crossing signs shall be erected on the right-hand side of the roadway facing the traffic they are intended to control and, if at an intersection, they shall be not closer than 10 feet nor farther than 40 feet from the near edge of the intersecting roadway or, if at a crosswalk, whether or not at an intersection, they shall be approximately 4 feet in advance of the crosswalk.

(2) **CITY AND VILLAGE STREETS.** (a) All signs described herein shall be erected on a metal standard or wood post, unless other suitable support for the sign is available. Signs shall not be erected upon utility poles unless permission therefor is obtained from the utility company.

(b) The bottom of the signs shall be not less than 7 feet nor more than 9 feet above the centerline grade of the roadway except that where conditions permit the signs may be located as for rural highways.

(c) School Advance signs shall be erected facing traffic on the right-hand side of the road and at a distance of approximately 300 feet in advance of the near limits of the school property, except that where the speed limit is 40 miles per hour or more, the sign shall be erected not less than 700 feet nor more than 1000 feet in advance of the near limits of the school property. The signs shall be erected 1 to 3 feet back of the curb or, if there is no curb, in accordance with subsection (1). They shall be located where they will have satisfactory, unobstructed visibility when viewed from the traffic lane.

(d) School Crossing Advance signs shall be erected approximately 300 feet in advance of the crosswalk of which they are intended to give warning except that they shall be erected no farther from the school crosswalk than the preceding street intersection.

(e) School Crossing signs shall be located approximately 4 feet in advance of the near crosswalk of the intersection in the direction of travel, on the right-hand side of traffic, and 1 to 3 feet back of the curb or, if there is no curb, in accordance with subsection (1).

(f) **Drive Carefully In School Zones** signs shall be erected by the authority in charge of the maintenance of the street or highway at or near the corporate limits of cities and villages on all highways. These signs shall be erected on the same support as is used for the

city or village name sign if such a sign is used. When used with a city or village name sign the height of the bottom of the Drive Carefully In School Zones sign shall be not less than 4 feet above the centerline grade of the roadway. When used alone the height of the bottom of the sign shall be not less than 5 feet.

(3) **SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.** When deemed desirable by the erecting authority, a sign of the type described in section Hy 12.02 (2) may be placed between a School Advance or School Crossing Advance sign and the School or School Crossing. A School Speed Limit sign shall not be used alone. The height and lateral placement of these signs shall be the same as for the School Advance signs. Whenever a School Speed Limit sign is used, the speed limit for the section of street or highway following the school or school crossing should be indicated by a standard Speed Limit sign complying with Wis. Adm. Code, chapter Hy 13.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; r. cr. (1), (2) (d), (e) and (3), Register, September, 1966, No. 129, eff. 10-1-66; am. (1), (2) (c), (d) and (e) and (3), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72. (Editor's note: Page reprinted, Register, August, 1972, to supply section number and title.)

Hy 12.04 Maintenance of School signs. All types of signs covered by this regulation shall be maintained in reasonably good condition at all times. Faded, discolored, and broken signs shall be replaced with approved signs. All types of signs shall be erected and maintained by the authority in charge of the maintenance of the highway.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Hy 12.05 Use of School signs. (2) **SCHOOL ADVANCE SIGNS.** School Advance signs shall be erected on each highway which is contiguous to school property to indicate and give warning of the presence of a school which is actually in use for school purposes during at least six months of the year. School Advance signs shall not be erected on any highway not contiguous to the school property.

(3) **SCHOOL CROSSING ADVANCE SIGNS.** Signs of this type may be used in advance of intersections or other places where a considerable number of school children cross the highway. Such signs should not be used indiscriminately but should be used only where there is a real hazard to considerable number of school children.

(4) **SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS.** Signs of this type may be used to indicate the location of a school crosswalk. They may be used only where advance warning of the school crossing is given by a School Crossing Advance sign. School Crossing signs should not be used on an approach to an intersection where traffic on that approach is controlled by a Stop or Yield sign but they may be used where traffic is controlled by a traffic control signal.

(5) **DRIVE CAREFULLY IN SCHOOL ZONES SIGNS.** This sign shall be used to remind motorists that extra care is required in school zones. It shall be erected at or near the corporate limits on every highway entering a city or incorporated village regardless of whether or not there is a school in the city or village. It is not required for unincorporated places.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; r. cr. (3) and (4), Register, September, 1966, No. 129, eff. 10-1-66; r. (1), am. (2), (3) and (4), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.