

Chapter Hy 12

SCHOOL SIGNS

Hy 12.01	General	Hy 12.05	Use of school signs
Hy 12.02	Detailed design of signs	Hy 12.06	Permissive interim standards for installation of school signs
Hy 12.03	Installation of school signs		
Hy 12.04	Maintenance of school signs		

Hy 12.01 General. (1) **PURPOSE AND EXTENT OF REGULATIONS.** These regulations are for the purpose of obtaining uniformity in the marking of hazards connected with schools and school children. They are adopted pursuant to sections 40.60(3) and 85.40(1), Wis. Stats. The signs covered by these regulations are as follows:

SCHOOL
SPEED LIMIT
SCHOOL CROSSING
DRIVE CAREFULLY IN SCHOOL ZONES

(2) **GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS.** Signs shall conform to the detailed design specifications given herein and to the standard drawings. Minor variations in the size, stroke, and shape of letters and numerals, the width of borders, and the size of signs will be permitted.

History: 1-2-56; Am. (2), Register, July, 1956, No. 7, Eff. 8-1-56.

Hy 12.02 Detailed design of signs. (1) **SCHOOL SIGN.** The standard SCHOOL sign shall have the following general characteristics:

(a) *Shape.* A square with one diagonal set vertically.

(b) *Size.* The standard size of the SCHOOL sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches. In incorporated places the sign may, at the option of the erecting authority, be reduced in size, with the proportions of the sign remaining as in the standard size, but such sign shall not be smaller than 18 inches by 18 inches.

(c) *Wording.* SCHOOL in rounded letters 6 inches in height with a stroke of $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. The lettering for the reduced size signs shall be reduced proportionately.

(d) *Color.* The background of the sign shall be federal yellow. The word SCHOOL shall be black.

(2) **SPEED LIMIT SIGNS FOR USE WITH SCHOOL OR SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS.** SPEED LIMIT signs may be used with SCHOOL or SCHOOL CROSSING signs and where used shall have the following general characteristics:

(a) *Shape.* A square.

(b) *Size.* The standard size of the SPEED LIMIT sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches. In incorporated places the sign may, at the option of the erecting authority, be reduced in size, with the proportions of the sign remaining as in the standard size, but such sign shall not be smaller than 18 inches by 18 inches.

(c) *Wording.* 15 SPEED LIMIT WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT in rounded letters. The numerals "15" shall be $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high with $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch stroke, the words SPEED LIMIT 3 inches high with $\frac{7}{16}$ -inch stroke, the word CHILDREN 4 inches high with $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch stroke, and the words WHEN and ARE PRESENT 2 inches high with $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch stroke. The lettering for the reduced size signs shall be reduced proportionately.

Register, July, 1956, No. 7

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

(3) SCHOOL CROSSING SIGN. The standard SCHOOL CROSSING sign shall have the following general characteristics:

(a) *Shape.* A horizontal rectangle.

(b) *Size.* Not less than 18 inches by 24 inches, nor more than 24 inches by 32 inches.

(c) *Wording.* SCHOOL CROSSING in rounded type letters 5 inches in height with 11/16-inch stroke for the 18-inch by 24-inch size sign. For larger signs the height and stroke shall be proportionately greater.

(d) *Color.* The lettering shall be black and the background shall be federal yellow.

(3m) PERMISSIVE INTERIM STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS.

(a) *Effective period of interim standards.* The use of school crossing signs which conform to the standards established by this section is approved until further notice.

(b) *Detailed design of school crossing sign.* The standard SCHOOL CROSSING sign shall have the following characteristics:

1. *Shape.* A square with one diagonal set vertically.

2. *Size.* The standard size of the SCHOOL CROSSING sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches. The size of the SCHOOL CROSSING sign may be increased at the option of the authority erecting the sign, but the proportions of the sign and message, and the shape of the sign shall be the same as in the standard size sign.

3. *Wording.* SCHOOL CROSSING in rounded letters five inches in height with a stroke of $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch. The size of the lettering for signs larger than the standard shall be increased in proportion to the increase in sign size.

4. *Color.* The background of the sign shall be federal yellow. The words SCHOOL CROSSING and the sign border shall be black.

(4) DRIVE CAREFULLY IN SCHOOL ZONES SIGN. The standard warning sign to be erected at corporate limits shall have the following general characteristics:

(a) *Shape.* Horizontal rectangle.

(b) *Size.* Not less than 18 inches by 40 inches, nor more than 24 inches by 54 inches.

(c) *Wording.* DRIVE CAREFULLY IN SCHOOL ZONES. The lettering shall be rounded and the words DRIVE CAREFULLY and SCHOOL ZONES shall be 5 inches in height and shall have a 11/16-inch stroke. The word IN shall be 1½ inches in height and shall have a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch stroke. The above dimensions shall apply to signs 18 inches by 40 inches, and the lettering for larger signs shall be proportionately larger.

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

History: 1-2-56; Am. (2), Register, July, 1956, No. 7, Eff. 8-1-56; cr. (3m), Register, March, 1958, No. 27, eff. 4-1-58.

Hy 12.03 Installation of school signs. (1) RURAL HIGHWAYS. SCHOOL and SCHOOL CROSSING signs shall be erected on a standard of suitable material. The center of the signs shall be as near 5 feet above the centerline grade of the roadway as is practical. The signs shall be placed on the right-hand side of the road facing traffic, and shall be 5 to 15 feet from the edge of the traveled way. The

Register, March, 1958, No. 27

SCHOOL signs shall be located not less than 500 feet nor more than 750 feet in advance of the nearest limits of the school property. The SCHOOL CROSSING signs shall usually be located not more than 350 feet in advance of the school crossing.

(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 center of the signs shall be not less than 5 feet nor more than 8 feet above the centerline of the roadway except that where conditions permit the signs may be located as for rural highways.

(c) SCHOOL 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. The signs shall be erected as close to the curb as practical, or if there is no curb then as close to the edge of the traveled way as practical, taking into consideration the possibility of damage by vehicles. They shall be located where they will have satisfactory, unobstructed visibility when viewed from the traffic lane.

(d) SCHOOL CROSSING signs shall be erected at, or within 300 feet in advance of, the crosswalk of which they are intended to give warning in such a location as to provide adequate advance warning of the crosswalk. They shall be erected on the right-hand side of the roadway and as close to the curb, or, if none, then as close to the edge of the traveled way as practical.

(e) 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 may be erected on the same support as is used for the city or village name sign if such a sign is used.

(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 used with a SCHOOL or SCHOOL CROSSING sign, in which case it shall be placed immediately beneath the SCHOOL or SCHOOL CROSSING sign on the same standard or support, but a school speed limit sign shall not be used alone.

History: 1-2-56; Am. (1), (2) (c), (d), (e); cr. (3), Register, July, 1956, No. 7, Eff. 8-1-56.

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 (the state highway commission in the case of state trunk highways; the county highway committee in the case of county trunk highways; etc.).

Hy 12.05 Use of school signs. (1) SCHOOL SIGNS. The SCHOOL sign is intended to be used to indicate and to give warning of the presence of a school which is actually in use for school purposes during at least six months of the year and which is contiguous to the highway upon which the marking is to be placed. SCHOOL signs are not to be erected on any highway not contiguous to the school property.

(2) SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS. Signs of this type are to be used in marking intersections or other places where considerable numbers 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 numbers of school children.

(3) **DRIVE CAREFULLY IN SCHOOL ZONES SIGNS.** This sign is intended to remind motorists that extra care is required in school zones. It is not required for unincorporated places.

Hy 12.06 Permissive interim standards for installation of school signs. The standards for the installation of the types of signs described in this chapter are optional after adoption as set forth in Chapter 227, Wis. Stats., and on and after January 1, 1961, the standards for installation set forth in section Hy 12.03 are the standards prescribed by the commission pursuant to section 40.60, Wis. Stats. Until January 1, 1961, installation of these signs in accordance with the regulations of the commission on school signs adopted on August 10, 1949, or chapter Hy 13 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code adopted by the commission on November 23, 1955, is approved.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1956, No. 7, Eff. 8-1-56.

Next page is numbered 113