

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History: Chapter Hy 12 as it existed on August 31, 1962 was repealed and a new chapter Hy 12 was created effective September 1, 1962.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 40.60 (3) and 349.11 (5), Wis. Stats., the Commission prescribes these rules relating to the design and installation of the following signs:

School
 Speed Limit 15 When Children Are Present
 School Crossing
 School Crossing Ahead
 Drive Carefully In School Zones

(2) **PERMISSIVE INTERIM STANDARDS.** Signs which comply with chapter Hy 12 as published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register for January, 1956, as amended in the Wisconsin Administrative Registers for July, 1956, and March, 1958, may be used before July 1, 1967, but after June 30, 1967, all signs covered by these rules shall comply with these rules. Signs which comply with chapter Hy. 12 as published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register for August, 1962, may be used before July 1, 1970, but after June 30, 1970, all signs covered by these rules shall comply with these rules except that signs on federal-aid routes shall comply with these rules after December 31, 1968. All new sign installations made after January 1, 1967, 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.

Hy 12.02 Detailed design of signs. (1) **SCHOOL SIGN.** (a) *Shape.* A School sign shall be a square with one diagonal vertical.

(b) *Size.* 1. The standard size School sign shall be 30 inches by 30 inches.

2. The minimum size School sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches.

(c) *Message and border.* The word "School" shall be in rounded letters 7 inches in height with a stroke of 1 inch on a standard size sign. The width of the border on a standard size sign shall be $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and the margin shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The lettering and border for the minimum size sign shall be reduced proportionally.

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

(2) **SPEED LIMIT SIGN FOR USE WITH SCHOOL, SCHOOL CROSSING OR SCHOOL CROSSWALK SIGN.** (a) *Shape.* A School Speed Limit sign for use with a School, School Crossing or School Crosswalk sign shall be a square.

(b) *Size.* (1) The standard size School Speed Limit sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches.

2. The minimum size School Speed Limit sign shall be 18 inches by 18 inches.

(c) *Message and border.* The words "15 Speed Limit When Children Are Present" shall be in rounded letters. The numerals "15" shall be 7½ inches high with 1⅜-inch stroke, the words "Speed Limit" 3 inches high with ⅞-inch stroke, the word "Children" 4 inches high with ⅝-inch stroke, and the words "When" and "Are Present" 2 inches high with ⅜-inch stroke. The width of the border on a standard size sign shall be ½ inch and the margin shall be ⅜ inch. The lettering and border for the minimum size sign shall be reduced proportionally.

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

(3) **SCHOOL CROSSING SIGN.** (a) *Shape.* A School Crossing sign shall be a square with one diagonal vertical.

(b) *Size.* 1. The standard size School Crossing sign shall be 30 inches by 30 inches.

2. The minimum size School Crossing sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches.

3. The size of the School Crossing sign may be increased to dimensions larger than the standard size 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.

(c) *Message and Border.* The words "School Crossing" shall be in rounded letters 5 inches in height with a stroke of ¼ of an inch. The width of the border on a standard size sign shall be ⅝ inch and the margin shall be ½ inch. The size of the lettering and border for signs larger or smaller than the standard size shall be increased or decreased in proportion to the increase or decrease in sign size.

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

(4) **SCHOOL CROSSING AHEAD SIGN.** (a) *Shape.* A School Crossing Ahead sign shall be a square with one diagonal vertical.

(b) *Size.* 1. The standard size School Crossing Ahead sign shall be 30 inches by 30 inches.

2. The minimum size School Crossing Ahead sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches.

3. The size of the School Crossing Ahead sign may be increased to dimensions larger than the standard size 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.

(c) *Message and Border.* The words "School Crossing Ahead" shall be in rounded letters 5 inches in height with a stroke of ¼ of an inch. The width of the border on a standard size sign shall be ⅝ inch and the margin shall be ½ inch. The size of the lettering and border for signs larger or smaller than the standard size shall be

increased or decreased in proportion to the increase or decrease in sign size.

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

(5) **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 $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch stroke. The word "In" shall be $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and shall have a $\frac{3}{8}$ -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.

Hy 12.03 Installation of School signs. (1) **RURAL HIGHWAYS.** School and School Crossing Ahead 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 a raised curb or guardrail, the nearest edge of the sign shall be approximately 2 feet outside the curb or guardrail. The School 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 Ahead 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 which is 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 signs shall be erected facing traffic on the right-hand side of the road and at a distance of approximately 300 feet in ad-

vance 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 approximately 1 foot 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 Ahead 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 approximately 1 foot 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 used with a School, School Crossing or School Crossing Ahead sign, in which case it shall be placed immediately beneath the School, School Crossing or School Crossing Ahead sign on the same standard or support, but a School Speed Limit sign shall not be used alone. The height of the bottom of these signs shall be not less than 4 feet above the centerline grade of the roadway.

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.

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. (1) GENERAL (Applicable to all signs covered by this chapter). (a) Minimum size signs may be used only on streets or highways which have only one lane for traffic in each direction and a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and which are not a state trunk highway, a connecting street or a federal aid highway.

(b) Standard size signs are the smallest which may be used on any street or highway which does not qualify for the use of minimum size signs under (a).

(2) SCHOOL SIGNS. School 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 signs shall not be erected on any highway not contiguous to the school property.

(3) **SCHOOL CROSSING AHEAD SIGNS.** Signs of this type may be used in advance of intersections or other places where 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 Ahead 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.

