

Chapter Hy 22

FLASHING TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

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**Hy 22.01 General.** (1) **AUTHORITY FOR THESE RULES.** Pursuant to section 349.08 (1), Wis. Stats., the commission prescribes these rules for the design, installation and operation of flashing traffic beacons.

(2) **APPLICATION.** These rules shall apply to all flashing traffic beacons, including those presently installed.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.

**Hy 22.02 Effective date of regulation.** Flashing traffic beacons which comply with chapter 21 as published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register for April, 1967, may be operated until January 1, 1977, but all new flashing traffic beacons installed after December 31, 1972 and all flashing traffic beacons in place and operating after December 31, 1976 shall comply with these rules.

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

**HY 22.03 Design of flashing traffic beacons.** (1) **COLOR, SIZE AND VISIBILITY OF BEACONS.** Flashing traffic beacons shall conform to the following design standards: (a) The color, intensity and distribution of the light from a flashing traffic beacon shall comply with the standards for the color, intensity and distribution of light from a traffic control signal lens as set forth in Wis. Adm. Code chapter Hy 21.

(b) The lens shall have a visible diameter of not less than 7¼ inches. When a yellow lens with a visible diameter greater than 7¼ inches is used, the wattage shall be reduced so that the brilliance of the illuminated lens will be equivalent to the brilliance of a 7¼ inch lens with a 67-watt lamp.

(c) The illuminating element, lens, reflector and visor shall each be of such design as to render the lens when illuminated clearly visible to traffic facing the signal at all distances up to ¼ mile under all atmospheric conditions except dense fog.

(2) **INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION.** All flashing contacts shall be equipped with filters for suppression of radio interference.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. (1), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.

Register, June, 1972, No. 198

**Hy 22.04 Installation of flashing traffic beacons. (1) HEIGHT OF SIGNAL HEAD.** The lowest part of a flashing traffic beacon shall be located as nearly as practical at the following height:

Location	Height above pavement			
	Roadside Location		Over Roadway	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Hazard identification beacon (yellow)	8'	12'	15'	19'
Intersection control beacon (red or yellow)	8'	15'	15'	19'

(2) **USE OF SIGNS WITH FLASHING BEACONS.** (a) A flashing traffic beacon consisting of one or more sections of a standard traffic control signal head with a flashing circular yellow indication in each section shall be used only to supplement an appropriate warning or regulatory sign, or may be installed with a suitable obstruction marker upon an obstruction in or immediately adjacent to a roadway.

(b) A flashing traffic beacon consisting of one or two sections of a standard traffic control signal head with a flashing circular red indication in each section shall be used only to supplement a Stop sign. Where two lenses are used, they shall be 8 inch nominal diameter, shall be aligned horizontally and shall be flashed simultaneously. When a single lens is used, it may be either 8 inch or 12 inch nominal size.

(c) The flashing beacon shall not be included within the border of the sign, and when used at an intersection, a flashing yellow traffic beacon shall not be used on two conflicting vehicular approaches.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.

**Hy 22.05 Operation of flashing traffic beacons. (1) RATE AND DURATION OF FLASH.** The illuminating element in a flashing red (stop) or flashing yellow (caution) beacon shall be flashed at a rate of not less than 50 nor more than 60 times per minute. The illuminated period of each flash shall be not less than half and not more than two thirds of the total elapsed time.

(2) **PERIOD OF OPERATION.** Flashing traffic beacons shall be operated only during those hours when the hazard or regulation exists.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.

**Hy 22.06 Maintenance of flashing traffic beacons. (1) PAINTING.** The signal heads, supporting hardware and metal standard, if used, shall be painted highway yellow except that the inside of visors (hoods), the entire surface of louvers and fins, and the front surface of backboards shall be painted a dull black.

(2) **GENERAL.** Maintenance of the equipment including the servicing of the mechanism, replacement of lamps, cleaning of optical unit, painting, etc., shall be carried out in such a manner that insofar as practicable the beacon will be operating satisfactorily at all times.

(3) **ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION.** The equipment and manner of its installation shall conform to the Wisconsin electrical code.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 7-1-72.