

**1010 SIGNS**

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1010.01 PURPOSE

The provisions of Section 1010 are intended to maintain a safe and pleasing environment for the people of Clackamas County by regulating the size, height, number, location, type, structure, design, lighting, and maintenance of signs.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.02 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Permits Required: If a sign other than one named in Subsection 1010.03 is to be placed, constructed, erected, or modified, a sign permit shall be secured.
- B. Along State Highways: All off-premises signs which are visible from a state highway are subject to approval by the Oregon State Highway Division pursuant to the Motorists Information Act.
- C. Oregon State Structural Specialty Code Compliance: All signs shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Oregon State Structural Specialty Code, except as otherwise provided in Section 1010.
- D. Address Display: The signing program for a multifamily, commercial, or industrial development shall include the display of the street number(s) for the development on the sign or building where it can be seen from adjacent roads and meet fire district standards.
- E. Sign Clearances: A minimum of eight feet above sidewalks and 15 feet above driveways shall be provided under freestanding and projecting signs.
- F. Sight Distance: All signs shall comply with the intersection sight distance standards of the Department of Transportation and Development.
- G. Setbacks: Unless otherwise specified, all signs shall observe the yard setback requirements of the zoning districts in which they are located.
- H. Blanketing: No sign shall be situated in a manner which results in the visual obstruction from an adjoining roadway or pedestrian way of an existing sign on adjacent property.
- I. Illuminated Signs:
  - 1. Internally illuminated signs, or external lights used to illuminate signs, shall be placed, shielded, or deflected so they do not shine into dwellings or impair the vision of the driver of any vehicle.
  - 2. The light intensity of an illuminated sign shall conform to or be less than

the accepted standards of the sign industry, as provided by the Oregon Electric Sign Association.

3. The Design Review Committee may approve an electronic message center. No other sign or illuminating devices shall have blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights.
- J. Signs or displays containing any electrical components or parts or illuminated by electrical lighting must be approved under the National Electrical Code as modified by the State of Oregon Rules and Regulations. Lights and illuminated signs requiring an outside power source shall use a state-approved power outlet.
- K. Moving Signs: No sign, sign structure, or portion thereof, except flags (as per Subsection 1010.12) and temporary displays (as per Subsection 1010.13(B)) shall be designed to rotate, flutter, or appear to move.
- L. Maintenance: All signs, together with all of their supports, braces, guys, and anchors, shall be maintained in a safe condition, in compliance with all building and electrical codes, and in conformance with Section 1010, at all times.
- M. Preexisting Signs: Notwithstanding Section 1206, signs and sign structures existing prior to September 12, 1996, which complied with applicable regulations existing when the sign was established, but which do not comply with one or more of the requirements of Section 1010 shall be subject to the following provisions:
  1. Alterations to a nonconforming sign which reduce or do not increase its noncompliance with the provisions of this Ordinance, including changes in display surface, sign areas, height, and setback, may be allowed subject to review under Subsection 1010.05, and
  2. Failure to use the copy area of a nonconforming sign for purposes permitted under Section 1010 for a period of more than 12 consecutive months shall constitute a "discontinuation of use" as provided under Subsection 1206.02 and such sign shall be removed or modified to satisfy all applicable requirements of Section 1010 and the underlying zoning district.
- N. Hazards: No sign, light, electrical cord, streamer, flag, or other apparatus shall be situated or used in a manner which creates a hazard.
- O. Sign Structure: When visible, the supporting structure of the sign shall be incorporated into the overall sign design, and shall be in scale with the sign.
- P. Site: For purposes of Section 1010, a "site" shall be the entire "site area" of the development as it is defined in Subsection 601.09(B), and onsite signs

shall be those permanent signs which are oriented towards internal circulation roads, driveways, and walkways, or which direct the flow of traffic to and from the site from adjacent roads or walkways.

- Q. Incidental signs shall not exceed three square feet per side.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.03 EXEMPT SIGNS:

- A. The following signs do not require a sign permit, but must meet other provisions of Section 1010:
1. Signs having an area three square feet or less;
  2. Signs listed as temporary under Subsection 1010.13; and
  3. Government owned or posted signs in the public right-of-way.
- B. The following signs are not regulated by this Ordinance:
1. Incidental signs;
  2. Product dispensers, such as beverage, newspaper, and recycling machines;
  3. Window signs
  4. Signs painted on or attached to a level one mobile vending unit. A level one mobile vending unit is one that complies with Subsection 837.02.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11; Amended by Ord. ZDO-231, 1/31/12]

1010.04 PROHIBITED SIGNS:

The following signs and sign characteristics are prohibited:

- A. Temporary signs, except as provided by Subsection 1010.13;
- B. Portable signs, except as provided by Subsection 1010.07(A)(2)(d), 1010.09(C)(2), or 1010.13;
- C. Animated signs, except as provided by Subsection 1010.09(D);
- D. Roof signs, except integral roof signs in Commercial and Industrial zoning districts;
- E. Signs that obstruct free and clear vision of a traffic sign or signal from intended users, or otherwise constitute a traffic impediment;

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- F. Signs imitating or resembling official traffic signs or signals;
- G. Any sign imitating or resembling an official county street or road sign, unless the sign is approved pursuant to Chapter 7.05, *Addressing and Road Naming*, of the Clackamas County Code;
- H. Colored lights which might in any way be confused with or construed to be traffic signals or lights on emergency vehicles;
- I. Strobe lights and signs containing strobe lights;
- J. Any sign that emits sound, odor, or visible matter; and
- K. Multiple reader signs designed to be read as a continued statement.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11; Amended by Ord. ZDO-231, 1/31/12]

1010.05 DESIGN REVIEW

The size, materials, design, color, lighting, and location of signs and supporting structures for all permanent signs greater than 60 square feet in area, shall be subject to design review pursuant to Section 1102 and the following criteria:

- A. Design: Signs shall be designed to be compatible with other development on the site, other nearby signs, other elements of street and site furniture, and adjacent structures. Compatibility shall be determined by the relationships of the elements of form, proportion, scale, color, materials, surface treatment, overall sign size, and the size and style of lettering.
- B. Scale: The scale of the sign, letter size, and design shall be appropriate for roadway or walkway visibility.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.06 RESIDENTIAL SIGNS IN URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS AND FUTURE URBAN DISTRICTS

- A. Residential Signs in Urban Low Density and Future Urban Districts:
  1. Shall not exceed three square feet.
  2. Shall be located inside the dwelling or located flat against the dwelling.
  3. Only one such sign shall be permitted upon the premises.
  4. May be illuminated by internal or external lighting subject to Subsections 1010.02(I)(1) and (2).
  5. No moving parts, noisemaking or musical devices, banners, or other

attractions or displays shall be used, except as provided in Subsection 1010.13.

B. Signs in Rural Residential Districts:

1. Shall not exceed eight square feet per side or six feet in height.
2. Only one such sign shall be permitted upon the premises.
3. May be located within the required setback area of the district provided it is situated in a manner so as not to adversely affect safety, corner vision, or other similar conditions.
4. May be illuminated by internal or external lighting subject to Subsections 1010.02(I)(1) and (2).
5. No moving parts, noisemaking or musical devices, banners, flags, or other attractions or displays shall be used, except as provided in Subsection 1010.13.

C. Freestanding signs for multifamily developments or subdivisions:

1. Maximum total sign area: 32 square feet per side.
2. Maximum number: No more than one freestanding sign shall be allowed for a development or complex, even when more than one tax lot or ownership is included in the development, except as follows:
  - a. When an additional sign is located at a major public access point located on a different public road, or
  - b. When two single-faced signs oriented in two different directions are proposed in lieu of a two-sided identification sign, or
  - c. In mixed-use developments, a separate monument sign, not to exceed 32 square feet, may be allowed for the multifamily portion of the development.
  - d. In the case of signs permitted under Subsection 1010.06(C)(2)(a) or (b), neither sign shall exceed the maximum sign size allowed.
3. Maximum top-of-sign height: Five feet above the finished ground elevation (not including berms or mounds specifically created for the sign).
4. Setbacks: Behind property line.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.07 SIGNS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICTS.

- A. Commercial signs:
  - 1. Shall not exceed 32 square feet. Signs may be two sided.
  - 2. Freestanding commercial signs:
    - a. Maximum top-of-sign height: Eight feet above finished ground elevation (not including berms or mounds specifically created for the sign).
    - b. Maximum number: The maximum number of signs shall be four. (11/6/97)
    - c. Setback: Behind front property line.
    - d. May include portable signs when anchored in accordance with Subsection 1010.13(A)(5).
    - e. May be illuminated by internal or external lighting, subject to Subsection 1010.02(I).
  - 3. Building commercial signs:
    - a. Maximum number: One
    - b. May be illuminated by internal or external lighting, subject to Subsection 1010.02(I).
- B. Residential signs as per Subsection 1010.06(B).
- C. Institutional uses as per Subsection 1010.08.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.08 SIGNS FOR SERVICE, RECREATIONAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL USES

The following standards shall apply to signs in urban residential, rural residential, future urban, and natural resource zoning districts for service and recreational uses regulated by Section 813, and for institutional uses.

- A. Maximum Area: 32 square feet per side. Neither a freestanding nor a building sign shall exceed this standard.
- B. Illumination: Signs may be illuminated by internal or external lighting, subject to Subsection 1010.02(I).
- C. Maximum Number: One freestanding and one building sign shall be

permitted upon the premises.

- D. Maximum Top-of-Sign Height: Five feet for a freestanding sign.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.09 COMMERCIAL SIGNS IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

- A. Commercial freestanding signs:

1. Number: Only one sign shall be allowed for a development or complex, even when more than one tax lot or ownership is included in the development, unless through design review pursuant to Section 1102, the following is determined:
  - a. An additional sign is needed to provide identification of the development at major public access points located on two different public roads, and/or
  - b. When two single-faced signs oriented in two different directions are proposed in lieu of a two-sided identification sign.
  - c. In mixed use developments a separate freestanding sign, not to exceed 32 square feet, may be allowed for the multifamily portion of the development.
  - d. In the case of signs permitted under Subsection 1010.09(A)(1)(a) or (b), neither sign shall exceed the maximum sign size allowed.
  - e. For General Commercial (C-3) and Retail Commercial (RTL) zoning districts, one additional freestanding sign may be allowed on a public, County, or State road when the frontage on that road exceeds 450 feet. In no case shall the number of freestanding signs exceed four for any development. The additional signs shall be a maximum of 60 square feet. This provision for an additional freestanding sign shall not allow an additional sign on any site located on a corner which qualifies for an additional sign by reason of that corner location under Subsection 1010.09 (A)(1)(a).
2. Maximum top-of-sign height:
  - a. Pole signs: In C-3 and RTL zoning districts, 25 feet. In all other Commercial zoning districts, 20 feet.
  - b. Monument signs: In all Commercial zoning districts, six feet. In all industrial zoning districts, five feet.
3. Maximum Sign Area: 60 square feet. Signs may be two sided. For

developments of more than one use included on the same site, a sign area may be increased above this requirement an additional 10 square feet per tenant, up to a maximum of 200 square feet, subject to Subsection 1010.05. Additionally, multiple-tenant signs shall use a common background.

4. Setbacks: Behind property line.
5. The sign supporting structure shall not be counted for purposes of determining sign area.
6. Illumination: Such signs may be internally or externally illuminated, subject to Subsection 1010.02(I).

B. Building commercial signs:

1. Number: The maximum sign area may be distributed among any number of signs.
2. Maximum size:
  - a. If there is not a freestanding sign on the same site frontage, then one and one-half square feet of sign area per linear footage of the occupant's primary building wall.
  - b. If there is a freestanding sign on the same site frontage, then one square foot of sign area per linear footage of the occupant's primary building wall.
  - c. Wall signs based on the sign rights of a primary building wall may be placed on a secondary building wall; they may not be placed onto another primary building wall.
  - d. Each tenant shall be allowed a minimum 32 square feet of building sign area.
  - e. In no case shall a building sign exceed 200 square feet.
3. Design: Building signs shall be incorporated into the design of the building, and shall not be placed in locations which interrupt, detract from, or change the architectural lines of the building.
4. Illumination: Building signs may be internally or externally illuminated, subject to Subsection 1010.02(I).

C. Mobile Vending Unit Signs:

1. The number and area of signs on a mobile vending unit are unrestricted. However, such signs shall be located flat against the unit, and no portion

of any sign shall extend above the roof of the unit. These signs may be internally or externally illuminated, provided that any required utility connections for such illumination comply with Section 837.

2. Each mobile vending unit may have one portable menu or sandwich board sign a maximum of six square feet in area. This sign shall be located within 10 feet of the mobile vending unit and shall be located outside the unit only during unit operating hours.
- D. Electronic message center signs, and other changeable copy signs, may be incorporated into a permanent commercial sign in a Commercial or Industrial zoning district. Approval shall not be granted unless the following criteria are satisfied:
1. Only one such sign shall be used in a development.
  2. The changeable copy sign or electronic message center shall be included in the maximum sign area allowed under Subsection 1010.09(A)(3) or 1010.09(B)(2), and shall not exceed 80 percent of the total sign area.
  3. The electronic message center shall be integrated into the design of the sign.
  4. All segments of a message shall be completed within 12 seconds.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11; Amended by Ord. ZDO-231, 1/31/12]

#### 1010.10 ONSITE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND IDENTIFICATION SIGNS

- A. Directory: A directory is an onsite sign which identifies and directs traffic to a number of tenants, uses, or buildings within a development.
- B. Directories oriented primarily toward vehicle circulation shall be limited in area to a maximum of two square feet per tenant, use, or building specifically identified, up to a maximum of 40 square feet.
- C. Directories, including those attached to buildings, that are oriented toward pedestrian circulation areas shall be a maximum of 24 square feet in area, and a maximum of eight feet in top-of-sign height.
- D. An onsite monument sign for an individual building within a development may be allowed as an alternative to a building sign, provided such sign shall:
  1. Be located adjacent to the building being identified.
  2. Not exceed 12 square feet in area.
  3. Not exceed four feet in top-of-sign height.

4. Use materials and colors that are the same, or substantially the same, as those used on the building identified by the sign.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.11 OFFSITE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND IDENTIFICATION SIGNS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICTS

- A. A temporary permit may be approved, renewable after five years. Criteria for approval:
  1. Shall be allowed only in Natural Resource zoning districts.
  2. The sign shall provide the actual registered name of a business and directions to the business (e.g., left or right, an arrow, one-quarter mile, etc.).
  3. A maximum of three offsite traffic control identification signs are allowed for each business.
  4. Maximum distance of business from offsite traffic control identification sign: Five miles.
  5. A maximum of two offsite traffic control signs shall be located at any one site.
- B. Development Standards
  1. Maximum size: Shall not exceed four square feet per side.
  2. Setback: Behind the front property line.
  3. Illumination: Offsite traffic control and identification signs shall not be illuminated.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

1010.12 FLAGS

Flags are allowed in all zoning districts, subject to the following:

- A. Number: Three flags per site.
- B. Maximum size: No flag shall exceed 40 square feet.
- C. Height: Top of pole supporting flag shall not exceed 35 feet above finished ground elevation (not including berms or mounds specifically created for the sign).

- D. All flags shall be located on one pole.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

#### 1010.13 TEMPORARY DISPLAYS AND SIGNS

- A. Temporary signs may be displayed under the following conditions and limitations:
  1. Number: Only one temporary sign shall be displayed for a site.
  2. Time Period and Duration: Shall not be displayed for a total time period exceeding 60 days in any calendar year.
  3. Size and Height Limits: Same size and height limits as a permanent sign for the same site.
  4. Setbacks: Behind front property line.
  5. Anchoring: All signs approved under this provision shall be physically attached to the premises in a manner which both prevents the sign from being moved or blown from its location, and allows the prompt removal of the sign.
  6. Exceptions: No temporary sign shall be allowed under this provision for any business or development which has a changeable copy sign incorporated into its permanent sign.
- B. Temporary displays (pennants, banners, streamers, strings of lights, and beacon lights) may be displayed according to Subsections 1010.13(A)(2) and (5) and 1010.02(N).

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]

#### 1010.14 GOVERNMENT CAMP SIGN STANDARDS

- A. Area of Application: Subsection 1010.14 shall apply to all permanent identification signs for commercial developments in the Rural Tourist Commercial (RTC) and Mountain Recreational Resort zoning districts in Government Camp and in the Hoodland Residential zoning district on properties with frontage on Government Camp Loop Road. The purpose of these sign standards is to provide a consistent design theme in the commercial areas.
- B. Conformance: Signs shall comply with the other applicable provisions of Section 1010, except as otherwise provided in Subsection 1010.14. Where there are conflicts, Subsection 1010.14 shall govern. A sign plan must be submitted to the Design Review Committee which shows:

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1. Total signage allowed for the proposed sign frontage, face area of existing signage, and face area of proposed signage;
  2. The design of the sign and sign support including dimensions, materials, colors, sign copy, lighting, and graphics; and
  3. A site plan and building elevation showing placement of existing and proposed signs on the site.
- C. Preexisting Signs: Signs and sign structures existing prior to February 10, 1993, that complied with applicable regulations existing when the sign was established but do not comply with one or more of the requirements of Section 1010 shall be subject to the provisions of Section 1206 and Subsection 1010.02, Preexisting Signs, except:
1. Any permanent sign which is nonconforming in any manner other than individual size shall be brought into conformance with the provisions of this Ordinance prior to any expansion or change in use which requires design review or a conditional use permit. Total signage area of existing and new signs may not exceed the maximum established in these standards. No occupancy permit shall be issued until a sign plan is submitted.
  2. Should any permanent nonconforming sign be damaged by any means to an extent of more than 50 percent of its replacement costs at the time of damage, it shall be reconstructed or replaced in conformance with these sign standards.
  3. Placement of a new sign where existing signage is greater than the total allowed, or where the new sign will make the total greater, requires removal of an amount of existing signage to keep the total signage area under the limit.
  4. Where a Clackamas County Development Agency incentive program is in effect, all nonconforming signs, except those that are nonconforming in size alone, must be brought into conformance or removed by February 10, 1996.
- D. Design Standards: Signs shall comply with Subsection 1010.05 and the following conditions:
1. Design: Sign design and support structure shall uphold the rustic, mountain environment of Government Camp through a Cascadian design theme.
  2. Materials:
    - a. Signs and support structures are limited to wood or wood exterior,

stone, brick, etched or stained glass, wrought iron, or non-shiny metal. Plywood may be used for signs only if it is heavily painted and/or edged to obscure the plywood texture and the surface is sealed to keep it from delaminating.

- b. Neon signs are permitted inside windows only.
  - c. Plastic may be used only in the letters of sign copy or the portion of a sign with changeable copy.
  - d. Signs in the RTC-zoned properties at the east and west entries of Government Camp visible from U.S. Highway 26 or with frontage on U.S. Highway 26 may be constructed of plastic if the design intent is upheld.
3. Colors: No reflective or fluorescent colors shall be used on signs or support structures.
  4. Lighting: The source of the lighting shall be external and obscured from the pedestrian. Internally lit signs are permitted only where the letters of the copy are illuminated or in RTC-zoned properties at the east and west entries of Government Camp visible from U.S. Highway 26, or in signs on U.S. Highway 26 frontage.
  5. Changeable Copy: Electronic sign copy and changeable sign copy is limited to no more than 20 percent of total signage allowed.
  6. Scale: Signs shall be kept in scale with pedestrians and buildings.
  7. Placement: Signs shall be incorporated into the design of the building and shall not be placed in locations which interrupt, detract from, or change the architectural lines of the building.
- E. Total Signage Area:
1. Developments less than three acres in size:
    - a. Total signage area shall be determined by the lineal feet of building frontage per street. This shall be a minimum of 30 square feet of signage plus one square foot for every five feet of building frontage greater than 30 lineal feet.
    - b. Buildings two stories or taller may increase the total signage allowed by 50 percent.
    - c. Only frontages on streets shall be used to determine total signage per frontage per development.

- d. Signage shall not be transferred between frontages.
2. Developments over three acres in size:
  - a. Total signage area shall be determined by lineal street frontage. This shall be a minimum of 30 square feet of signage plus one square foot of signage per five lineal feet of street frontage greater than 30 feet.
  - b. Internal signs not readily visible from the street shall not be subject to total signage area restrictions in Subsection 1010.14(E)(2).
3. Developments with U.S. Highway 26 frontage: Such signs serve a unique purpose in attracting high speed traffic from the Highway and are also subject to Oregon Department of Transportation sign regulations. One sign shall be allowed per development per U.S. Highway 26 frontage and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Signage shall conform to the Government Camp design intent to the degree possible.

F. Types of Signs Permitted:

1. Freestanding or monument signs:
  - a. Shall be situated within setback.
  - b. Shall have a maximum of one ground mounted sign per 50 feet of lineal building frontage.
  - c. Shall have a maximum face area of 24 square feet.
  - d. Shall have a maximum top-of-sign height of 12 feet.
  - e. Shall be on a base or wooden supports; poles are permitted only if integrated into a base. Any metal poles must be free of peeling paint and rust.
2. Building signs:
  - a. Shall have a maximum face area of 24 square feet.
  - b. Shall not extend more than 10 inches from the wall.
  - c. Sign or components shall not exceed top of roofline or extend beyond the face area of the building.
3. Projecting signs:
  - a. Shall not extend more than two feet into the public right-of-way, project farther than five feet from the building, or exceed top of roofline immediately above.

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- b. Shall not exceed one projecting sign per 25 feet of lineal building frontage.
  - c. Shall have a maximum face area of 12 square feet; buildings over two stories may have signs of up to 24 square feet.
  - d. Supporting structure may not exceed sign's height or width by more than two feet or extend higher than roofline.
4. Window signs readily visible from outside the building:
- a. Shall have a maximum face area of 30 percent of total window area per frontage; maximum sign size per individual window sign is 12 square feet.
  - b. Interior neon window signs readily visible from the street shall not exceed 10 percent of the total window area per street frontage. No more than 20 percent of an individual window should be covered with neon. Neon signs within these limits shall not be counted toward the total signage area.
5. Awning/overhead or walkway covering signs:
- a. Shall be completely positioned on awning, overhead, or covered walkway.
  - b. Shall have a maximum face area of 24 square feet.

[Amended by Ord. ZDO-224, 5/31/11]