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TITLE 16. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CHAPTER 41C. ROADSIDE SIGN CONTROL AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

Expires on June 18, 2007

SUBCHAPTER 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY

16:41C-1.1 Purpose

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to balance the need to control and regulate roadside signs and outdoor advertising, promote the scenic beauty of the State, provide for the safety and convenience of the public, and the need to stimulate economic and commercial activity within the State of New Jersey. This chapter requires and provides for the issuing of licenses and permits for roadside signs and outdoor advertising and the establishment, use, maintenance and removal of such signs.

(b) Consistent with Federal law, the State Act and the Agreement as presently existing and hereafter amended, the Commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules, in a manner consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act, governing outdoor advertising including spacing, size, lighting and other requirements pertaining to the issuance or denial of permits for the erection or maintenance of outdoor advertising signs along limited access and non-limited access highways, prescribing the number, locations and types of and specifications for outdoor advertising signs, and designating the conditions under which outdoor advertising signs may be erected and maintained.

(c) Consistent with the State Act, the Commissioner is authorized to charge and collect fees for the issuance of permits and related costs. The moneys received from such fees shall be deposited with the State Treasurer, and be subject to disbursement on order of the Commissioner to defray the expense of administering the provisions of this chapter.

(d) The Commissioner is authorized to designate certain roadside areas as "safety rest areas" or "informational sites" and to provide by rules for the erection and maintenance of signs in such areas.

(e) The Commissioner is authorized to acquire by gift, purchase or condemnation, real and personal property or the right to maintain outdoor advertising signs in any protected area or protected zone of limited access and non-limited access highways for the purpose of implementing the rules in this chapter. All persons whose property is purchased or otherwise acquired, except by gift to the State of New Jersey, shall receive just compensation therefor.

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

16:41C-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Abandoned" means any sign which has not had an advertisement on it, or the advertisement is in need of repair, or the structure is missing components necessary for an advertisement for a period of three months. A sign in good repair containing the message "available" or other similar sales information shall not be considered abandoned.

"Administrator" means the Administrator of Outdoor Advertising of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Advertisement" means any message placed on a sign.

"Advertising structure" means any rigid or semi-rigid material, with or without advertisement displayed thereon, situated upon or attached to real property outdoors, primarily or principally for the purpose of furnishing a background or base or support upon which an advertisement may be displayed.

"Advertising surface area" means the total surface area of a sign face as measured by the smallest rectangle which will encompass the entire area as indicated on the approved application and permit. All dimensions include border, trim and cutouts, but exclude decorative bases and supports.

"Agreement" means the Agreement between the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the Department establishing size, spacing and lighting standards for effective control of outdoor advertising signs along interstate and Federal aid primary highways as adopted in 1971 and as may be subsequently amended.

"Atlantic City Casino-Recreation District" means that area within the city limits of the City of Atlantic City which is zoned RS-C (Resort Commercial Development District), RS (Resort Service), CBD (Central Business District), URT (Urban Renewal Tract) or Beach (boardwalk) as defined by the City of Atlantic City.

"Beginning of pavement widening" means that point where a highway begins to widen beyond the width of the main-traveled way, leading toward an exit ramp or another highway.

"Business of outdoor advertising" means the display of an advertisement in exchange for any compensation or item or service of value by any person through the erection, use or maintenance of a sign.

"Commercial or industrial activities for purposes of unzoned commercial or industrial areas" means those activities generally recognized as commercial or industrial by zoning authorities in this State, except that none of the following activities shall be considered commercial or industrial:

1. Outdoor advertising signs;
2. Agricultural, forestry, ranching, grazing, farming and related activities, including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce stands;
3. Transient or temporary activities;
4. Activities not visible from the main traveled way;

5. Activities more than 660 feet (201.2 meters) from the nearest edge of the right of way;

6. Activities conducted in a building primarily used as a residence; and

7. Railroad tracks and minor sidings.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Customary maintenance" means all manner of reasonable repair or maintenance of a sign, including replacement of worn or damaged portions of the structure.

"Cutouts/extensions" means any attachment or addition to the advertising surface area that increases or enhances the advertisement on the sign. Cutouts/extensions shall be included in calculating the advertising surface area of a sign.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Directional signs" means signs containing directional information about publicly owned places, natural phenomena, historic, cultural, scientific, educational, and religious sites; or areas of natural scenic beauty or naturally suited for outdoor recreation, deemed, by the Commissioner, to be in the interest of the traveling public.

"Embellishments" means objects, such as letters, figures or other devices attached to the advertising surface area of a sign which create a three-dimensional effect but do not extend beyond the vertical or horizontal planes of the advertising surface area.

"Ending of pavement widening" means that point where a highway returns to the width of the main-traveled way after the merging from an entrance ramp or other highway.

"Federal law" means Section 131 of Title 23, United States Code (1965) (*23 U.S.C. § 131*), commonly referred to as Title 1 or the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, as amended and hereafter amended, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

"Federal-aid primary highway" means any highway within that portion of the State highway system as designated or as may hereafter be so designated by the State, which has been approved by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 103 of Title 23, United States Code.

"Ground structure" means any advertising structure or display erected upon the ground, however supported thereon.

"Highway" means any road, thorofare, street, boulevard, lane, court, railway, right-of-way or easement used for, or laid out and intended for public passage of vehicles or people.

"Incorporated municipalities" means cities, towns, townships, villages, boroughs and any other municipal corporations of this State.

"Interchange" means a junction of two or more highways that allows for the movement of traffic between such highways, typically by means of one or more entrance and/or exit ramps.

"Interstate System" means those highways constructed within this State and approved by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States as an official portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, "Highways" of the United States Code, as amended.

"Licensee" means any person, as defined by these rules, who is the holder of any valid and unrevoked license to engage in outdoor advertising business in this State.

"Limited access highway" means a highway, or any portion thereof, especially designed for through traffic, over which abutters have no easement or right of light, air or direct access by reason of the fact that their property abuts upon such limited access highway. For purposes of these rules, interstate highways, parkways, expressways and freeways, including, but not limited to, the Atlantic City Expressway, the Garden State Parkway, and the New Jersey Turnpike, shall be considered limited access highways.

"Main-traveled way" means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. In the case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each separate roadway carrying through traffic in opposite directions is a main-traveled way. The main-traveled way shall not include frontage roads, turning roadways, or parking areas.

"Modernize" means to alter, reconfigure or replace an advertising structure with new or different materials without increasing the number of supporting uprights or the advertising surface area.

"Multiple message sign" means a sign, which changes message or copy electronically or by the movement or rotation of panels or slats.

"Nonconforming sign" means a sign which fails to comply with the requirements of the State Act and any rules promulgated pursuant thereto, and which had been lawfully erected, pursuant to a valid outdoor advertising permit, and maintained prior to the enactment, revision, or amendment of the State Act and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

"Official signs and notices" means signs and notices erected and maintained by public officers or public agencies within their territorial or zoning jurisdiction and pursuant to and in accordance with direction or authorization contained in Federal, State, or local law for the purposes of carrying out an official duty or responsibility. Historical markers authorized by State law and erected by State or local government agencies or nonprofit historical societies may be considered official signs.

"On-premise sign" means a sign that identifies an actual and bona fide principal activity, product or service that is conducted, available, offered or produced on the property where the sign is located including a sign that exclusively advertises the sale or lease of the property on which the sign is located. The storage of supplies or materials on the property does not indicate of itself an actual bona fide principal activity, product, or use of the property. When a sign consists principally of a brand name or trade name advertising and the product or service advertised is only incidental to the principal activity, or when it brings any compensation to the property owner or to the owner of the sign, the sign shall be considered an off-premise sign used for the purpose of the business of outdoor advertising.

"Permit" means a certificate issued by the Department authorizing the erection and maintenance of a sign at the location described thereon. The issuance of an outdoor

advertising permit does not supersede municipal or other agency sign requirements or restrictions.

"Permit holder" means any person holding a valid and unrevoked outdoor advertising permit.

"Permitted location" means a place, spot, site or space for which an outdoor advertising permit has been duly issued for the erection or maintenance of a sign without regard to whether the same has actually been constructed, painted or posted.

"Person" means any individual, group, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, any public entity, as the context may require, or combination thereof.

"Point of gore" means the point where the main-traveled way and a ramp or another highway come together. Where a physical obstruction exists, such as curb, guide rail, or impact attenuator, that physical obstruction shall be considered the point of gore.

"Premises" means that portion of the property wherein any industry, commerce, business, occupation, trade or service is conducted.

"Primary system" means any highway on the National Highway System as defined by the U.S. Congress, or any highway on the Federal-aid primary system in existence on June 1, 1991, as enacted in the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, as amended.

"Protected areas" means all areas inside the boundaries of this State which are adjacent to and within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways in the Interstate and Primary Systems, and those areas inside the boundaries of this State which are outside urban areas and visible from such highways but beyond 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways not in the Interstate and Primary Systems.

"Protected zones" means all areas inside the boundaries of this State which are adjacent to and within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways not in the Interstate and Primary Systems, and those areas inside the boundaries of this State which are outside urban areas and visible from such highways but beyond 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the edge of the right-of-way of highways not in the Interstate and Primary Systems.

"Public service signs" mean signs located off the Department's right-of-way on school bus shelters that are authorized or approved by city, county or State law, regulation or ordinance, and at places approved by the city, county or State agency controlling the highway involved.

"Public utility signs" means warning signs, information signs, notices or markers which are customarily erected and maintained by publicly or privately owned public utilities, as essential to their operations.

"Religious notice signs" see "service club and religious notices."

"Safety rest area" means an area or site established and maintained within or adjacent to the highway right-of-way and under public supervision or control, for the convenience of the traveling public.

"Scenic area" means any public park or area of scenic beauty or historical significance, as designated by the Commissioner of Transportation or other State agency having and exercising such control.

"Scenic byway" means any highway or portion thereof that has been nominated and designated as a scenic byway by the Department.

"Service club and religious notices" means signs and notices whose erection is authorized by law, relating to the meetings of nonprofit service clubs or charitable associations, or religious services.

"Sign" means any structure including, but not limited to, an advertising structure and sign face used outdoors and affixed to or upon property to display messages and/or images within public view which is designed to attract, or does attract, the attention of pedestrians or operators or passengers of motor vehicles using the roads, highways, and other public thoroughfares and places, and shall include any writing, printing, painting, display, emblem, drawing, or other device whether placed on the ground, rocks, trees, tree stumps or other natural structures, or on a building, structure, signboard, billboard, wallboard, roofboard, frame, support, fence, or elsewhere, and any lighting or other accessories used in conjunction therewith.

"Space or sign face" means the advertising surface area used or to be used for each advertisement. A double face sign is deemed to have two spaces.

"State Act" means the Roadside Sign Control and Outdoor Advertising Act, P.L. 1991, c.413.

"Trade name" means the brand name, trademark, distinctive symbol or any other device used to identify particular products or services.

"Unzoned commercial or industrial areas" means those areas which are not zoned by State or local law, rule or ordinance, and on which there are located one or more permanent structures devoted to commercial or industrial activity or on which a commercial or industrial activity is actually conducted, whether or not a permanent structure is located thereon, and the area along the highway extending outward 800 feet (243.8 meters) from and beyond the edge of such activity. Each side of the highway will be considered separately in applying this definition. All measurements shall be from the outer edges of the regularly used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing and landscaped areas of the commercial or industrial activities, not from the property lines of the activities, and shall be along or parallel to the edge or pavement of the highway. The granting of a use or any other variance by a local zoning or governing body shall not change the zoning of the property as defined in these rules.

"Urban area" means a place designated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as having a population of 5,000 or more within boundaries to be fixed by responsible State and local officials in cooperation with each other, subject to approval by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States. The boundaries shall, at a minimum, encompass the entire place designated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

"Visible" means the advertisement can be seen and comprehended without visual aid by persons traveling in the motor vehicle on the highway.

"V-type construction" means a single structure having two faces in the shape of the letter "V" when viewed from above, with the faces oriented in opposite directions.

"Zoned commercial or industrial areas" means those areas which are zoned for business, industry, commerce, office, or trade pursuant to a State or local zoning ordinance or rule, or those areas other than areas exclusively zoned for residential, agricultural, forest, conservation, recreation, education or preservation where the prevalent land use is business, industry, commerce, office or trade. The granting of a use or any other variance by a municipal zoning board of adjustment or governing body shall not change the zoning of the property as defined in these rules.

16:41C-2.2 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 3. RESTRICTIONS

16:41C-3.1 General restrictions

(a) Signs which contain, include or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, scrolling or moving light or lights shall be prohibited, except those giving time, date and/or temperature.

(b) A permit for a new or enlarged sign shall not be issued if such permit would conflict with public policy relating to roadside signs or outdoor advertising as declared by the Congress of the United States, or as reflected in the statutory enactments and judicial decisions of this State. In determining whether such public policy is contravened, the Department shall consider the law of this State, and the United States, including the Highway Beautification Act, the Outdoor Advertising Act, and these regulations.

(c) Except where specifically authorized by the Department, no outdoor advertising signs shall be erected or maintained within the Department's right-of-way of any portion of limited access or non-limited access highways within the State of New Jersey. This prohibition shall not apply to signs, public notices or markers erected or maintained by the Department of Transportation.

(d) No outdoor advertising sign shall interfere with the ability of the operator of a motor vehicle to have a clear and unobstructed view of streets or highways ahead, approaching, merging or intersecting traffic, or official signs, signals or traffic control devices.

(e) No outdoor advertising sign shall interfere with or contain advertisements that resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device.

(f) No outdoor advertising sign shall be painted, drawn, erected or maintained upon trees, rocks, other natural features, or public utility poles.

(g) No outdoor advertising sign shall be of such a type, size, or character or placed at a location that will endanger or injure public safety, or health, or pose a physical threat to property in the vicinity thereof.

(h) No outdoor advertising sign shall be permitted which advertises activities that are illegal under Federal, State or local law in effect at the location of those signs or at the location of those activities.

(i) No outdoor advertising sign shall be permitted which has any animated or moving parts or has reflectorized materials which may impair the vision of a motorist.

(j) No off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be erected along or be visible to the Garden State Parkway.

(k) No off-premise outdoor advertising sign shall be erected along or be visible to that portion of the New Jersey Turnpike not incorporated into the Federal Aid Interstate Highway System.

SUBCHAPTER 4. LICENSE PROVISIONS

16:41C-4.1 When license required

(a) Any person holding an outdoor advertising permit pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16:41C-5.2 for a sign to be used to advertise anything other than the business of the permit holder shall obtain a license to engage in the business of outdoor advertising, without regard to whether the sign is built.

(b) An application for a license shall be obtained from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Outdoor Advertising.

(c) The annual fee for an outdoor advertising license shall be as follows:

<u>Number of Permits</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
0 to 5	\$ 50.00
6 to 50	\$250.00
51 and over	\$500.00

(d) A late charge of \$50.00, in addition to the regular fee, shall be imposed for an application for renewal of an outdoor advertising license postmarked after May 1.

16:41C-4.2 Bond for non-resident

If a licensee does not reside in New Jersey or is a foreign corporation not authorized to do business in this State, it shall file with its application a bond of \$5,000 in favor of the State satisfactory to the Commissioner and issued by an approved surety, conditioned upon the observing and fulfilling by the applicant of all the provisions of the law and the rules contained in this chapter. Upon default in the condition of such bond, appropriate action shall be taken to enforce the collection thereof in a court of competent jurisdiction. A bond shall remain in full force and effect so long as any obligation to the State in such license shall remain unsatisfied.

16:41C-4.3 License expiration date

Unless revoked or canceled, all licenses will expire on May 15 following the date of issuance or renewal. An application for renewal of a license shall be made to the Department on or before May 1 immediately preceding the expiration date.

SUBCHAPTER 5. SIGNS AND PERMITS

16:41C-5.1 Types of signs allowed

(a) The following signs are allowed in accordance with this chapter and require the issuance and maintenance of a permit:

1. Directional signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.2);
2. Service club signs and religious notices (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.4);
3. Public service signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.5);
4. Off-premise signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.7); and
5. Multiple message signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.8).

(b) The following signs are allowed in accordance with this chapter, but do not require the issuance of a permit:

1. On-premise signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.6);
2. Public utility signs (N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.3); and
3. Official signs and notices.

(c) No sign shall be erected or maintained that is visible from the main-traveled way of any portion of limited access or non-limited access highways except those allowed in (a) and (b) above.

(d) As authorized under N.J.S.A. 27:5-11c in those instances where the Commissioner deems it to be in the public interest, he or she may issue a permit for a sign on a public property which would not otherwise be allowed by the State Act and pursuant to this chapter and impose conditions as he or she deems appropriate. Requests for waivers from the sign requirements of this chapter shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In approving waivers, the Commissioner shall weigh the benefit to the public, evaluate the need for the sign, assure the public safety, and remain in compliance with Federal rules and the 1971 Federal Agreement.

16:41C-5.2 Permit requirements

(a) Except where a permit is not required by this chapter, each person shall obtain a permit from the Department for each sign before its erection, maintenance or use.

(b) No permit issued to a person required to obtain a license pursuant to this chapter shall be valid unless the license of such person is in full force and effect.

(c) Unless revoked or canceled, a permit shall be in force from the date issued to the following May 15.

(d) If the name or address of a permit holder changes, written notice of the change shall be filed with the Department's Office of Outdoor Advertising within 30 days of the change.

16:41C-5.3 Permit applications

(a) An application for a permit shall be submitted to the Office of Outdoor Advertising Services on a form printed by the Department. The Department shall not accept copies of that form.

(b) Each application shall specify the location where the sign is to be erected and maintained. The application shall depict graphically the location of the proposed sign by showing its distance from the nearest intersecting road, railroad crossing, bridge, or other permanent point of reference. If a sign is built at a location other than that specified in an approved application, the sign shall be deemed to be unauthorized by a permit.

(c) A single application shall cover a double-faced, back-to-back, side-by-side or V-type sign. The fee charged will be for the total advertising surface area at that location.

(d) The Department shall return to the applicant for completion or correction an application that is incomplete or that contains incorrect or conflicting information. If the applicant does not complete or correct, and resubmit, the application within 30 days, the Department shall deny the application.

(e) The Department shall issue conditional approval of a permit application for a sign not yet built on an Interstate highway or other limited access highway that meets the approval requirements of this chapter governing signs on Interstate highways and other limited access highways.

1. Within 45 days of the issuance of a conditional approval of a permit application pursuant to (e) above, the applicant shall submit a scaled drawing prepared by a professional land surveyor of New Jersey and bearing the professional land surveyor's signature and raised seal, in which drawing all distances are measured to the closest foot, that shows:

i. The county, municipality, block, and lot of the property on which the proposed sign is to be erected;

ii. The name of the property owner;

iii. The distance from the proposed sign to the permanent point of reference the applicant has specified in the application pursuant to (b) above as measured along the nearest edge of pavement;

iv. The distance the sign will be from the right-of-way line;

v. The route numbers and names of all highways shown on the drawing;

vi. An arrow indicating north; and

vii. The scale of the drawing.

2. If the location shown in the drawing required by (e)1 above is the same as the location specified in the conditionally approved application pursuant to (b) above, the Department shall approve the application.

3. If the applicant does not submit the drawing required by (e)1 above within 45 days or if the location shown in the drawing required by (e)1 above is not the same as the location specified in the conditionally approved application pursuant to (b) above, the Department shall rescind the conditional approval of the application and shall deny the application.

16:41C-5.4 Alteration of permit area

(a) Multiple message signs are limited to the restrictions of N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8.8.

(b) When a permittee desires to enlarge or reconfigure the dimensions of the advertising surface area of a sign, an application for a new permit shall be made and the applicable application and permit fees shall be paid.

(c) Embellishments may be added to, or made a part of, any permitted outdoor advertising sign without further application to the Office of Outdoor Advertising.

(d) Cutouts and/or extensions may be added to an existing conforming sign, provided the sign permit authorizes an advertising surface area equal to or larger than the smallest rectangle enclosing the sign and all cutouts.

1. If the addition of cutouts and/or extensions cause the sign to exceed its permitted dimensions, the advertising surface shall be structurally reduced to accommodate such cutouts and/or extensions within the rectangular envelope authorized by the sign's permit. Painting or covering a portion of a sign face shall not be an acceptable method of structural change.

16:41C-5.5 Permit holders

(a) The name of the permittee and the application number of the sign shall be placed in a conspicuous location on the sign structure so that it is visible from the highway to which it advertises. The minimum size letters and numbers to be used shall be at least two inches (5.1 centimeters) high. The name and number shall be installed within 30 days after issuance of the permit or the erection of the sign, whichever is sooner, except as specified in (b) below.

(b) If a ground structure is not built within 60 days of the date of issuance of the permit, the permittee shall place a sign 10 inches by 24 inches (25.4 centimeters by 61 centimeters) at the site parallel to the roadway and within 10 feet (three meters) of the right-of-way line. If the property of the proposed site is not adjacent to the right-of-way line, the sign shall be placed as near as possible to the right-of-way line. The sign shall be fabricated on aluminum, fiberglass or approved equal with two inch (5.1 centimeters) black letters on a white background. It shall contain the name of the permit holder and application number for the sign. The sign shall be mounted on a post at a height seven feet (2.1 meters) above ground.

16:41C-5.6 Appeal of denial of application

(a) If an application for an outdoor advertising permit is denied, the applicant shall accept that determination or within 30 days file with the Administrator a written protest signed by the protestor or a duly authorized agent stating the reason for the protest. The protest may include a request for an informal hearing, a formal hearing, or both.

(b) If requested in the protest, the Administrator shall schedule an informal hearing within the Department. When a formal hearing is requested, the Administrator shall transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law within 30 days of receiving the request or, when an informal hearing is also requested, within 15 days of the date of decision concluding an informal hearing. Formal hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

(c) The applicant or his or her duly authorized agent shall sign all protests.

SUBCHAPTER 6. FEES

16:41C-6.1 Permit application fees

(a) A \$50.00 application fee shall be submitted with each new application for an off-premise outdoor advertising permit for a sign with a proposed advertising surface area of 100 square feet (9.3 square meters) or less.

(b) A \$200.00 application fee shall be submitted with each new application for an off-premise outdoor advertising permit for a sign with a proposed advertising surface area exceeding 100 square feet (9.3 square meters).

(c) No application fee will be charged for a change of name or address or no fee permits.

(d) No refund will be made after an application for a permit has been filed.

16:41C-6.2 Permit fees

(a) If an application for an off-premise advertising permit is approved, the permit fee shall be submitted, with any other required fees, within 30 days of being noticed of such approval. If the fees are not submitted within 30 days, the application shall be canceled unless the applicant did not receive a billing from the Department, or the applicant can produce documentation to support that they are attempting to comply with the fee submittal.

(b) The annual permit fee for each sign requiring a permit will be based upon the size of the approved advertising surface area as follows:

Advertising Surface Area		
In Square Feet (Square Meters)		
<u>Over</u>	<u>Not More Than</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
0	100 (9.3)	\$ 20.00
100 (9.3)	300 (27.9)	\$ 60.00
300 (27.9)	600 (55.8)	\$150.00
600 (55.8)	1,000 (93)	\$400.00
1,000 (93)		\$550.00

(c) Permits issued for directional signs and service club or religious notices meeting the requirements contained in N.J.A.C. 16:41C-8 for those types of signs shall be no-fee permits.

1. No fee permits shall continue to be valid provided the sign remains in conformance with the original terms and conditions of the permit application.

2. Before a no fee permit is issued, the sign must be in conformance with the applicable provisions of the law and this chapter. The permit is subject to the same terms and conditions regarding revocation set forth in this chapter.

16:41C-6.3 Renewal of permits and late renewal charges

(a) Permits for signs erected and maintained with a valid permit shall be renewed annually unless the permit has been revoked pursuant to this chapter.

(b) If the returned invoice and payment for the renewal of a permit are received after the expiration date of the last valid permit, a \$20.00 reinstatement charge for each permit shall be imposed in addition to the regular fee.

(c) A permittee who chooses not to renew a permit shall notify the Office of Outdoor Advertising in writing and remove the entire sign not later than the expiration date of the permit.

(d) Extensions of time to submit renewal invoices and payments shall only be granted if the Department has not mailed out the invoices by March 20.

(e) The Department shall not refund a permit renewal fee payment.

16:41C-6.4 Fee for name or ownership change

(a) A permit holder who wishes to change the name under which he or she is conducting business shall submit a completed application to the Department at no fee within 30 days of the change.

(b) An individual or business that acquires a permitted location from another permittee shall submit a completed application for its own permit at that location to the Department within 30 days of the acquisition accompanied by a \$10.00 administrative fee and a document, signed by the current permittee, that indicates the current permittee's agreement to the issuance of a new permit to the applicant.

SUBCHAPTER 7. VEGETATION CONTROL

16:41C-7.1 Vegetation control

Adjustment, alteration or removal of existing landscape within the Department's right-of-way is prohibited unless authorized by a permit issued by a Department Regional Maintenance Office pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16:41.

SUBCHAPTER 8. STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

16:41C-8.1 General requirements

(a) A sign is subject to the requirements of its type as indicated in this subchapter. In those cases where a sign is erected or proposed to be erected, so that it is visible to more than one highway, the requirements for each highway shall apply.

(b) A sign shall be in conformance with the conditions set forth in its permit and the requirements set forth below:

1. Illumination of signs shall be shielded so as to prevent light from being directed at any portion of the main-traveled way of any highway, or shall be of such low intensity or brilliance as not to cause glare or impair the vision of operators of motor vehicles on any highway, or otherwise impair the operation of a motor vehicle. All such lighting shall also be subject to any other provision relating to lighting of signs applicable to highways under the jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey.

2. All signs shall be kept in a safe and well-maintained condition with due regard for climate, weather and terrain.

3. The advertising surface area of any sign affixed to or painted upon the wall of any building or a structure, other than an outdoor advertising structure, shall be stationary. The advertising surface area of a wall sign shall be defined by a contrasting border or paint color that readily distinguishes the advertising surface area from the remaining part of the wall.

16:41C-8.2 Directional signs

(a) Activities or attractions eligible for directional signing shall be limited to natural wonders, scenic attractions, historical attractions, educational, cultural, scientific and religious institutions or activities, and outdoor recreational areas.

(b) To be eligible, privately-owned attractions or activities must be nationally or regionally known and of outstanding interest to the traveling public. Final determination of eligibility shall be made by the Commissioner.

(c) The message on directional signs shall be limited to the identification of the attraction or activity and directional information which is useful to the traveler in locating the attraction. Superfluous information or pictorial or photographic representation of the activity or its environs shall be prohibited.

(d) Directional signs shall not exceed 20 feet (6.1 meters) in length, width or height, or 150 square feet (14 square meters) in area including border, trim, cutouts and extensions, but excluding decorative bases and supports.

(e) Each location of a directional sign shall be submitted to the Administrator for approval.

(f) A directional sign shall not be located within 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) of an interchange or intersection at grade along a limited access highway.

(g) Directional signs shall not be located within 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) of any of the following areas or sites which are adjacent to limited access highways or within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of any of the following areas or sites which are adjacent to non-limited access highways:

1. Scenic areas designated as such by the Commissioner or other State agency having and exercising such authority;
2. Safety rest areas; or
3. Informational sites.

(h) No two directional signs facing the same direction of travel shall be spaced less than one mile (1.6 kilometers) apart.

(i) Not more than three directional signs pertaining to the same activity and facing the same direction shall be erected along a single route approaching the activity.

(j) Directional signs on limited access highways shall be within 75 miles (120.7 kilometers) of the activity and directional signs on non-limited access highways shall be within 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) of the activity.

16:41C-8.3 Public utility signs

(a) The Commissioner shall determine the size, spacing, lighting, location and the number of public utility signs, notices or markers on limited access and non-limited access highways, essential to the operation of a public utility installation.

(b) In no event shall public utility signs exceed 10 feet (3 meters) in length, width or height or 100 square feet (9.3 square meters) in area, including border, trim, cutouts and extensions, but excluding decorative bases and supports.

16:41C-8.4 Service club and religious notices

(a) No more than one service club or religious sign or notice shall be erected on each side of a highway.

(b) Such signs shall be located no further than two miles (3.2 kilometers) from the organization or activity and shall not exceed eight square feet (0.74 square meters) in area.

(c) No sign shall be located within 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) of an interchange or intersection at grade along a limited access highway (measured along the highway from the nearest point of the beginning or ending of pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main traveled way).

(d) No sign shall be located within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of any of the following areas or sites adjacent to the highway:

1. Scenic areas designated as such by the Commissioner or other State agency authorized to make such determinations;

2. Safety rest areas; or

3. Informational sites.

(e) Double-faced, back-to-back or V-type signs shall be prohibited.

16:41C-8.5 Signs on school bus stop shelters

(a) Public service signs on school bus stop shelters are not permitted on the Interstate System.

(b) Each public service sign on school bus stop shelters adjacent to the Primary System shall not exceed 32 square feet (3 square meters), 50 percent of which must contain safety slogans or messages.

(c) Signs on school bus stop shelters adjacent to all other roads shall be allowed at locations approved by the governmental agency, authority or subdivision having jurisdiction therefor. Each advertising face shall not exceed 32 square feet (3 square meters) and no more than one sign on each shelter shall face in any one direction.

(d) Nothing in this section shall require a sign affixed to a school bus stop shelter to meet the standards for a public service sign, if the school bus stop shelter would otherwise meet the requirements for an off-premise sign and is located in a location at which an off-premise sign would be permitted.

16:41C-8.6 On-premise signs

(a) A sign shall be classified as an on-premise sign if it identifies the principal activity located, or principal product produced or sold, or services sold or conducted, on the premises, or the sale or lease of the property on which the sign is located.

(b) When a sign consists principally of brand name or trade name advertising and the product or service advertised is only incidental to the principal activity, or when it brings rental income to the property owner, the sign shall be considered an off-premise sign used for the purpose of the business of outdoor advertising.

(c) The premises on which an activity is conducted shall be determined by physical facts rather than property lines. The following are not part of the premises on which an activity is conducted and any signs located on such lands shall be deemed off-premises advertising:

1. Land separated by a roadway, highway or other obstruction; or

2. Narrow strips of land that are contiguous to the property but separated from the activity.

(d) Along interstate highways, not more than one on-premise sign per direction of travel shall be erected at a distance greater than 50 feet (15.2 meters) from the advertised activity. Such signs shall not exceed 150 square feet (14 square meters) in area. If, however, such property fronts on more than one street, one sign may be erected on each street frontage.

(e) When the advertised activity is a business, commercial or industrial land use, the sign distance shall be measured from the regularly used buildings, parking lots, ingress and/or

egress driveways, storage or other structures which are essential and customary to the conduct of the business.

(f) No fees shall be required or permits issued for on-premise signs.

16:41C-8.7 Off-premise signs

(a) The following general standards shall apply to off-premise signs:

1. Directional, official, public service, and on-premise signs, and signs painted on or attached to the structural steel supports of bridges within the highway right-of-way shall not be counted, and measurements shall not be made from them for purposes of determining compliance with spacing requirements between permitted locations.

2. The minimum distance (spacing) between permitted locations shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the edge of the sign face nearest the pavement edge, and shall apply only to permitted locations on the same side of the highway. The point of measurement for back-to-back signs shall be the midpoint between the nearest edge of the back-to-back sign faces.

3. Not more than two sign faces at a permitted location shall be visible to traffic traveling in the same direction. If two sign faces are placed to be visible to traffic traveling in the same direction (that is, side-by-side or one above another), the total combined area and dimensions of the advertising surfaces shall not exceed the maximum area and dimensions allowed. If sign faces are placed back-to-back or in a V-type construction, the maximum area and dimensions shall apply to the sign faces on each side of the sign.

4. Signs that are painted on or attached to bridges within the highway right-of-way shall not exceed the limits of the structural steel bridge supports, or the maximum dimensions as specified for the highway involved, whichever is less.

5. No signs shall be allowed that are painted on or attached to bridges within the right-of-way of any Interstate highway.

6. No off-premise sign will be permitted which will be visible to any highway or portion of a highway that has been designated as a scenic byway, or has been nominated for designation as a scenic byway.

7. No off-premise sign will be permitted beyond 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of an Interstate or Primary system highway outside of urban areas for the purpose of their message being read from the main-traveled way.

(b) Off-premise signs that are visible to the main-traveled way of any portion of an Interstate highway or limited access highway on the Federal Aid Primary System and/or National Highway System, within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the right-of-way shall comply with the following:

1. Off-premise signs within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the nearest edge of the right-of-way will only be permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas.

2. Outside of all municipalities with a population of over 40,000, a sign shall not be located within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of an interchange, intersection at grade, or safety

rest area. This restriction prohibits any sign on either side of the highway that would be visible to a main-traveled way where it would be within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of the beginning or ending of pavement widening, within 500 feet (152.4 meters) of the point of gore, or any point in between the beginning or ending of a pavement widening. This distance shall be measured along the pavement edge of the highway nearest those points.

i. If an interchange lacks a point of pavement widening, a sign shall not be located in that direction within 1,000 feet (304.8 meters) of the point of gore.

3. The minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 1,000 feet (304.8 meters).

4. The maximum width of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 60 feet (18.3 meters). The maximum height of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 25 feet (7.6 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters), except where the sign is erected upon or attached to a building. In such event, the maximum height of the advertising surface area of a wall or roof mounted sign shall be 30 feet (9.1 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area shall be 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters.)

(c) Off-premise signs that are visible to the main-traveled way of any portion of a non-limited access highway on the Primary System within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the right-of-way shall comply with the following:

1. Off-premise signs within 660 feet (201.2 meters) of the nearest edge of the right-of-way will only be permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas.

2. The minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 300 feet (91.4 meters).

3. The maximum width of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 60 feet (18.3 meters). The maximum height of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 25 feet (7.6 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters), except where the sign is erected upon or attached to a building. In such event, the maximum height of the advertising surface area of a wall or roof mounted sign shall be 30 feet (9.1 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area shall be 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters).

(d) All other off-premise signs shall comply with the following:

1. The minimum spacing between permitted locations shall be 300 feet (91.4 meters).

2. The maximum width of the advertising surface area of any sign shall be 60 feet (18.3 meters), the maximum height of the advertising surface area shall be 30 feet (9.1 meters), and the maximum advertising surface area shall be 1,200 square feet (111.5 square meters).

3. Within municipalities having populations of 40,000 or more, the maximum size of signs that are not visible to a highway in the interstate or primary systems and that are attached to walls of buildings shall not exceed 3,000 square feet.

i. The applicant shall provide to the Office of Outdoor Advertising Services proof of municipal approval with a permit application for a wall sign exceeding 1,200 square feet in area.

4. Off-premise signs will only be permitted in zoned and unzoned commercial or industrial areas.

(e) Off-premise signs within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District are exempt from the size, spacing and lighting provisions of this chapter, provided they are not visible to any highways included in the Primary System and the signs comply with the City of Atlantic City's sign ordinance. In the absence of an Atlantic City sign ordinance, this chapter shall control size, spacing and lighting.

(f) Off-premise signs visible only to pedestrian traffic such as boardwalks, train station platforms, and the like shall not be subject to the spacing requirements of this chapter.

16:41C-8.8 Off-premise multiple message signs

(a) Off-premise multiple message signs shall comply with all other sections of this chapter in addition to the following:

1. A person wishing to install an off-premise multiple message sign that would be visible to a highway shall apply to the Administrator for permission prior to installation. The Administrator shall grant permission provided the following conditions are met:

i. Trivision sign panels shall remain fixed for a period of at least four seconds before changing;

ii. All other types of multiple message technology shall remain fixed for a period of at least 15 seconds. The Administrator may authorize a shorter period upon considering highway design, traffic volume, and traffic safety; and

iii. A message change shall be accomplished completely within two seconds or less.

2. Multiple message signs shall contain a default design that will freeze the sign in one position if a malfunction occurs.

3. The minimum spacing between multiple message signs shall be 3,000 feet.

(b) The provisions in this chapter pertaining to size, spacing and illumination for multiple message signs shall not apply to such signs erected within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District.

(c) All signs allowed by (b) above shall be shielded so as to prevent light from being directed at any portion of the main-traveled way of the street or highway, or if not so shielded, be of such low intensity or brilliance as not to cause glare or impair the operation of a motor vehicle. All other provisions of this chapter which pertain to illumination shall not apply to signs erected within the Atlantic City Casino Recreation District.

16:41C-8.9 (Reserved)

16:41C-8.10 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 9. NONCONFORMING SIGNS

16:41C-9.1 General provisions

(a) A nonconforming sign may continue at its permitted location and may be maintained, repaired, and/or restored provided that:

1. The sign shall be lawfully erected in accordance with its permit and is currently maintained in that manner;
2. The sign has not been removed, abandoned or totally destroyed; and
3. The advertising surface area is not larger than it was on the effective date of the adoption, revision, or amendment of the ordinance, statute, or regulation that rendered the sign nonconforming.

(b) Cutouts and/or extensions may not be added to a nonconforming sign. However, the advertising surface of a nonconforming sign may be reduced (and later rebuilt) to allow for cutouts and/or extensions to be added within its permitted rectangular envelope.

(c) Customary maintenance of a nonconforming sign shall be permitted in order to maintain the sign's structural integrity and/or aesthetics.

(d) A nonconforming sign may be modernized provided the number of sign faces and the advertising surface area are not increased, and the modernization is completed within 90 days. Approval of the Department shall be obtained prior to modernization of any nonconforming sign.

SUBCHAPTER 10. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

16:41C-10.1 Notice, protests and hearings

(a) When the Department determines that any person has committed a violation of any provision of this chapter, the Department shall issue to that person a written notice of violation and revocation and a copy of the violation report. Within 30 days after receipt of the notice, that person shall:

1. Correct the violation, if same is subject to being brought into compliance. If a multiple message sign is the subject of the violation, freeze the sign in one position within three business days of receipt of written notice;
2. Remove the signs or signs alleged to be in non-compliance; or
3. File a written protest with the Administrator stating the reason for protest and requesting either an informal hearing before the Office of Outdoor Advertising or a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Law, or both.

(b) If a person to whom the Department has issued a notice of violation and revocation pursuant to (a) above does not file a protest in accordance with (a)3 above within 30 days of the receipt of notice, the Department's determination of violation and revocation shall be deemed the final agency decision.

(c) The filing of a protest shall not abate the accrual of penalties.

(d) A protestor or his or her duly authorized agent shall sign the protest.

(e) The Department shall schedule an informal hearing within 30 days of its receipt of a request therefor pursuant to (a)3 above unless extended by agreement.

(f) Within 15 days of the conclusion of an informal hearing, the Administrator shall issue a written decision, confirming modifying or vacating the determination of the Office of Outdoor Advertising. Within 30 days of receipt of the Administrator's written decision, a protestor may request a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Law, which shall be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1. The Administrator's decision shall be a final decision if a request for a formal hearing is not made in the manner set forth above.

16:41C-10.2 Causes for revocation of license or permit

(a) A license may be revoked whenever any statement made in the application for a license is materially false.

(b) A permit may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Whenever a statement in the application is materially false;
2. Whenever a sign has been erected contrary to the approved application and conditions of the permit;
3. Whenever any provision of the law or rules contained in this chapter is violated;
4. Whenever the advertising surface area used is in excess of the permitted area;
5. Whenever a permitted structure has not been kept in a safe and well-maintained condition;
6. Whenever a permit is being maintained upon public property without the express permission of the governing authority;
7. Whenever a permit is being maintained upon private property without the consent of the property owner. A valid lease establishes the consent of the property owner;
8. Whenever the existing natural landscape of the right-of-way has been trimmed, altered or destroyed in any way by the permittee or agent thereof without complying with N.J.A.C. 16:41;
9. Whenever a permittee fails to place his name and the sign's application number on the sign as required by this chapter;
10. Whenever a sign remains abandoned for a period of four months after being so cited by the Department; or
11. Whenever a permittee has failed to pay a penalty pursuant to N.J.A.C. 16:41C-10.4(e).

16:41C-10.3 Removal provisions

(a) In addition to the imposition of penalties as provided for in this chapter, any sign which is cited for an offense of these rules which has not been corrected within 30 days from the receipt of a notice of the alleged offense may be removed within 30 days of the receipt of a notice of removal. A notice of removal may be issued concurrently with any other notice.

(b) The filing of a written protest of any notice in accordance with this subchapter shall stay the removal of the sign until the issuance of the final agency decision unless the violation is egregious or constitutes a danger to public safety. In determining egregiousness of the violation, the Administrator shall consider whether the violation was either intentional or accidental, whether or not the violator has a history of repeat violations, and the nature of the violation.

(c) If there has been a final administrative decision that affirms the issuance of a notice of removal and the sign is not removed within 30 days of that final administrative decision, the Commissioner may authorize entry upon the property to effect the removal of the sign. Said entry and removal of the sign shall be without liability to the Commissioner and his or her agents. The cost of removal or \$500.00, whichever is greater, may be recovered against the owner either in a separate legal action or in addition to any penalties owed as determined by the Commissioner or court of competent jurisdiction.

16:41C-10.4 Penalties

(a) In addition to all penalties set forth in this chapter, any person who erects, uses or maintains any sign or authorizes the use of his or her name in connection therewith, in violation of any of the provisions of the State Act and this chapter, is liable to a per diem penalty of not less than \$50.00, nor more than \$500.00 for each day the sign remains in violation. However, except for cases where the violation is egregious, the maximum penalties assessed shall not exceed the gross income of the sign or \$50.00 per day, whichever is greater.

(b) A penalty of not less than \$50.00 shall be assessed for all violations. Penalties and per diem accumulation thereof provided for in (a) above, shall begin on the date of service of the notice of violation upon the person so noticed, unless the accumulation of penalties has been stayed by the Administrator.

(c) In the interest of equity, the Commissioner shall have the power to abate all or any portion of penalties.

(d) In determining the amount of any penalty assessed, or to be assessed, for violating any rule contained in this chapter, the Commissioner shall consider, among other facts, the gross income of the sign, the egregiousness of the violation, whether the violation was intentional or accidental, whether the violator has a history of repeated violations, and the egregiousness thereof, and such other facts as will assist in arriving at a penalty commensurate with the violation.

(e) Penalties shall be paid in full within 45 days of the date of service of the final administrative decision. If a final administrative decision results from the operation of law, the violator shall pay all penalties within 45 days of that event. If the violator does not pay all penalties in full within these 45 days, the Department may record the final order assessing the penalties on the judgment docket of the Superior Court.