R-39 Rev. 03/2012
(Title page)

IMPORTANT: Read instructions on back of last page (Certification Page) before completing this form. Failure to comply with instructions may cause disapproval of proposed Regulations

State of Connecticut
REGULATION
of

Department of Transportation

Concerning

Specific Information Signs and Business Signs on Limited Access Highways

Section 1: Sections 13a-124a-2 through 13a-124a-4, inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13a-124a-2. Interchange Signing Criteria

Signs shall be installed in accordance with the MUTCD [, the Federal-Aid Highway Program Manual Volume 6, Chapter 8, Section 3, Subsection 8] and such State and Federal regulations and standards as may apply to other highway signs, except as further defined in this section.

(a) Specific Information Signs may be installed based on the following:

(1) Limited access highways except parkways.

(2) Where the distance between the interchange considered and the adjacent upstream interchange is not less than 7,000', as measured from the end of the upstream acceleration lane to the beginning of the downstream deceleration lane; where camping exists the distance shall not be less than 7,800'.

(3) Where the upstream interchange is a half-interchange consisting of only an on-ramp in the direction being considered, the distance between the interchange considered and upstream interchange preceding the half interchange shall not be less than 9,000'; where camping exists the distance shall not be less than 9,800'.

(4) Where an interchange is at unlimited access highways.

(5) At interchanges where the motorist can conveniently reenter the expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.

(6) At interchanges where, in the opinion of the Department of Transportation, specific information signing will not have a detrimental effect on traffic operations.

(b) The number of specific information signs shall be limited to one for each type of service along an approach to an interchange. The number of business signs permitted on a specific information shall be six.

(c) A separate specific information sign shall be provided for each type of service for which business signs are displayed and shall be installed in successive order beginning with CAMPING, LODGING, FOOD and GAS in the direction of traffic. Specific information signs and business signs shall be installed on ramps where the business is not visible from the ramp termini. Businesses visible from the ramp terminus will not appear on ramp signs. Also, where a turn is required off of the roadway that intersects the ramp, business signs shall be installed at the crossroad to indicate the required turn. Only one turn will be allowed; businesses requiring, more than one turn will not be eligible for the program. Excepted therefrom will be businesses requiring more than one turn but which are located adjacent to and/or clearly visible from the roadway intersecting the ramp or road onto which one turn, has been made. The business shall be responsible for obtaining permission from the individual, group, or government having jurisdiction over the sign location to be used for the signs prior to sign installation. A business, if approved, shall qualify for signing on only one route.

(d) If the interchange closest to the business is signable in only one direction and the business qualifies at a second interchange which allows signing in the opposite direction on the same highway, the business may request signing at two interchanges. A business can have only one sign per direction of travel.

(e) Once a specific information sign has been installed at a given approach, reference to that service will be removed from any existing service signs for that approach.

Sec. 13a-124a-3. Minimum Criteria for Services

The minimum criteria by which gas, food, lodging and camping establishments may qualify for participation in specific information signing for travel services within highway right-of-way is as follows:

(a) **All**

Shall give written assurance of conformity with all applicable laws concerning the provision of public services without regard to race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, sex, [mental retardation] intellectual or physical disability including but not limited to blindness, and shall not be in breach of that assurance.

(b) **Gas**

(1) Shall be located not more than [1/2] 1 mile from the ramp terminus;

(2) Shall provide a public rest [rooms] room, [each containing] including a sink, running water and a flush toilet;

(3) Shall be in continuous operation at least 16 consecutive hours, 7 days a week year-round; and

(4) [Shall provide public telephones.] Shall provide a phone for public use.

(c) **Food**

(1) Shall be located not more than [1-1/2] 2 miles from the ramp terminus;

(2) Shall display a valid permit from the appropriate public agency, as required by law;

(3) Shall be in [continuous] operation for at least [12] 8 [consecutive] hours daily[,]. [beginning no later than 7:00 a.m., 7 days per week, year-round.] The business shall serve in an indoor setting [three meals per day including breakfast, lunch and supper; and] a minimum of two meals per day at least 6 days per week, year-round;

(4) [Shall provide public telephone.] Shall be allowed to display a supplemental message such as "Open 24 Hours", "Drive Thru" or "Closed Sunday" on the logo;

(5) Shall provide a phone for public use; and

(6) Shall provide a public rest room including a sink, running water, and a flush toilet.

(d) **Lodging**

(1) Shall be located not more than 3 miles from the ramp terminus;

(2) Shall possess a valid permit from the appropriate public agency, as required by law;

(3) Shall have adequate sleeping accommodations for rent consisting of a minimum of 10 units, each including bathroom and sleeping room;

(4) Shall provide free off-street passenger vehicle parking space for each lodging unit for rent;

(5) Shall be in continuous 24-hour operation, 7 days per week, year-round; and

(6) [Shall provide public telephone.] Shall provide a phone for public use.

(e) **Camping**

(1) Shall be located not more than 10 miles from the ramp terminus via a paved road;

(2) Shall possess a valid license from the appropriate public agency, as required by law;

(3) Shall have adequate parking and camping accommodations for at least 30 vehicles;

(4) Shall have modern sanitary facilities and drinking water; and

(5) Shall be in continuous 24-hour operation, 7 days per week, except that overnight camping facilities may be closed to the public for not more than 180 consecutive days between November 1 and the following May 1.

Sec. 13a-124a-4. Application process

All businesses interested in participating in the Connecticut Specific Information Signing Program may do so by following these steps:

(a) Upon request, the Department of Transportation will send interested parties an application package that includes an application, application instructions, program regulations and, a list of interchanges that qualify for this program.

(b) All businesses requesting participation in the State's specific information signing program shall submit an application form, provided by the Department of Transportation, containing the necessary information with the application fee in the form of a certified check or money order in the amount of [$1500.00] $2,000.00 per interchange. The application fee will cover the cost of processing, field investigation, and permits. In the event the request is not approved, the application fee shall not be refunded.

(c) Upon approval of the application, the applicant shall receive an approval package. All approved applicants are required to submit a completed permit application to the Commissioner along with a D.O.T. furnished Certificate of Insurance [(Form No. CON-32)] (Standard Industry Accord Form) indicating the correct protective liability insurance coverage by the permittee. In addition to the [Form No. Con. 32] Standard Industry Accord Form, the initial approved business of a signing installation will also be required to execute an Information Sign Maintenance Concurrence and furnish a performance bond (minimum [$5,000.00] $10,000.00) to run for the life of the Concurrence.

(d) The first six applicants for gas, food, lodging and camping that meet the minimum criteria existing at the time of the initial application will be given the opportunity to participate in the program. The Department will allow a participating business to display its business signs for a period of not less than one year from the date of the initial installation of those signs, provided that business continues to operate under the terms of the Concurrence and in compliance with the minimum criteria. Excepted therefrom is the initial business who will be allowed to display its business signs for a period of not less than two years from the date of the initial installation of those signs. However, once the maximum number of similar type businesses are participating in the specific information program at a particular interchange and a similar type business, closer in distance, qualifies and desires to participate in this program, the farthest participating business will be removed from the program only after that business sign has been displayed for not less than one year from the date of initial installation or two years in the case of the initial business.

Statement of Purpose:

To implement a series of changes in policies and practices that updates and allows more latitude in signing for general motorist services and tourist information facilities.

In 2012, ConnDOT created an internal departmental taskforce to review standards, regulations and policies for highway signing along Connecticut roads and highways. The group comprised diverse disciplines including engineering, maintenance, legal, legislative, rights-of-way and the Federal Highway Administration with input from the Connecticut Department of Community and Economic Development's Office of Culture and Tourism. Changes were recommended that are more flexible and more responsive to businesses while remaining consistent with federal guidelines. The changes increase the distances from the ramp termini and relax some of the minimum required hours of commercial operation which will result in more businesses being eligible for motorist service signs. The proposed regulations will enable more businesses to qualify for specific Gas, Food, Lodging and Camping Logo signs along Connecticut's highways. There is a modest application fee increase for businesses wishing to be included in the expanded signing program.