



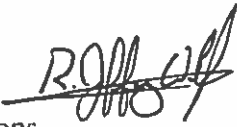
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

HIGHWAY DESIGN MEMO NO. 01-16, TRAFFIC OPERATIONS MEMO NO. 01-16

TO: Chief District Engineers
Branch Managers for Preconstruction
Engineering Support Branch Managers
Design Consultants

FROM: Bill Gulick, P.E. 
Director
Division of Highway Design

Jeff Wolfe, P.E. 
Director
Division of Traffic Operations

DATE: February 16, 2016

SUBJECT: FHWA Termination of Interim Approval for Use of Clearview Font

The Federal Highway Administration has terminated interim approval for the use of Clearview font on highway signing. This termination was issued by notice in the Federal Register on January 25, 2016.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet had previously secured FHWA's approval for the use of Clearview font. In recent years, the Cabinet has utilized Clearview font for the destination names on interchange panel signs.

This termination becomes effective on February 25, 2016. Existing signs with Clearview font are unaffected by the termination action and may remain in the field as long as they are in serviceable condition. In accordance with FHWA guidance, projects or signs currently in the design stage shall be amended, to the extent practicable, to specify Standard Alphabets for traffic control devices. Considering the effective date of the ruling and the 2016 Letting Schedule, the elimination of Clearview font should begin with projects in the April, 2016 Letting. For signing plans that are near completion, the impacts of this change should be minimal. The sizes of signs should be not be impacted; and in most cases, a simple substitution to the Standard Alphabet should suffice.

For your convenience, we have attached a copy of a guidance memorandum from FHWA on this issue and a copy of the relevant sections of the Federal Register. If you have any questions about this action, please contact Jeff Wolfe with the Division of Traffic Operations.

Attachments

- c: FHWA
- Paul Looney
- Bill Greene






U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION AND ACTION:**
MUTCD – Interim Approval for Use of
Clearview Font for Positive Contrast
Legends on Guide Signs
(IA-5)—TERMINATION

Date: January 28, 2016

From: Mark R. Kehrli 
Director, Office of Transportation
Operations

In Reply Refer To:
HOTO-1

To: Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers
Division Administrators

Purpose: Through this memorandum, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Transportation Operations (HOTO) issues guidance to the Federal-Aid Divisions regarding the January 25, 2016, Federal Register notice officially terminating the subject Interim Approval, issued September 2, 2004. The notice discontinues the provisional use of an alternative lettering style in traffic control device applications. The result of this termination rescinds the allowance of the use of letter styles other than the FHWA Standard Alphabets on traffic control devices except as provided otherwise in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD) and herein. Existing signs that use the provisional letter style and comply with the Interim Approval are unaffected by this action and may remain as long as they are in serviceable condition. This action does not create a mandate for the removal or installation of any sign. The requirement of the MUTCD to display destination and street names using upper- and lower-case lettering is unchanged by this action. State agencies should disseminate this message to local jurisdictions for further action.

Background: The Federal Register notice provides a synopsis of considerations that led to the termination of the Interim Approval. The attached Technical Brief provides additional detailed information regarding the synthesis of research studies and resulting practices that support this action.

Conclusion: Based on the findings outlined in the Federal Register notice and in the attached Technical Brief, the FHWA does not intend to pursue further consideration, development, or support of an alternative letter style. Accordingly, further implementation of an alternative letter style is discontinued, subject to the following:

- Those agencies that have signs already in the process of fabrication or contracts awarded may fabricate and install those signs with the alternative alphabets as specified, subject to the terms of the Interim Approval and the FHWA's policy.

- Projects or signs currently in the design stage shall be amended, to the extent practicable, to specify the Standard Alphabets. This change should not affect overall sign sizes because the alternative alphabets consistently require sign sizes that are at least equal to, and in most cases larger than, signs that use the Standard Alphabets. A simple substitution in specification should sufficiently effect this change. In compliance with the MUTCD, freeway and expressway signs shall continue to display destination and street name legends composed of upper- and lower-case letters using Series E(modified). Other legends that are composed of all upper-case letters, such as cardinal directions, exit numbers, and action or distance messages, are displayed using Series E. For conventional roads, Series D is desirable, though Series C may be considered for unusually long legends.
- The discontinuation of the provisional letter style does not affect the requirement to display street and destination names using a combination of leading upper-case and following lower-case letters (see MUTCD Section 2A.13).
- Community wayfinding signs (see MUTCD Section 2D.50) may continue to use a lettering style other than the Standard Alphabets as long as it provides at least equivalent legibility as provided in the referenced Section of the MUTCD.
- Agencies whose specifications or standards specify the provisional lettering style should issue revisions to these policies in a timely manner. Signs that are ordered after the effective date of this termination are not authorized under the former Interim Approval and must comply with the provisions of the MUTCD regardless of jurisdiction or funding source. State agencies that requested and were granted Interim Approval on behalf of all jurisdictions in that State shall notify those agencies of the rescinding of the subject Interim Approval.

Attachments:

January 25, 2016 Federal Register notice
Technical Brief

cc:

Associate Administrators
Chief Counsel
Chief Financial Officer
Directors of Field Services
Director of Technical Services

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of Renewed Approval of Information Collection: General Operating and Flight Rules

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to revise a previously approved information collection. Part A of subtitle VII of the Revised title 49 U.S.C. authorizes the issuance of regulations governing the use of navigable airspace. Information is collected to determine compliance with Federal regulations. This revision addresses requirements from the Enhanced Flight Vision Systems (EFVS) Rule, RIN 2120-AJ94.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by March 25, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the FAA at the following address: Ronda Thompson, Room 441, Federal Aviation Administration, ASP-110, 950 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronda Thompson by email at: Ronda.Thompson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 2120-0005.

Title: General Operating and Flight Rules.

Form Numbers: None.

Type of Review: Revision of an information collection.

Background: The reporting and recordkeeping requirements of Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, are authorized by part A of subtitle VII of

the Revised title 49 U.S.C. FAR part 91 prescribes rules governing the operation of aircraft (other than moored balloons, kites, rockets and unmanned free balloons) within the United States. The reporting and recordkeeping requirements prescribed by various sections of FAR part 91 are necessary for FAA to assure compliance with these provisions.

Respondents: Approximately 21,200 airmen, state or local governments, and businesses.

Frequency: Information is collected on occasion.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: .5 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 235,183 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 14, 2016.

Ronda Thompson,

FAA Information Collection Clearance Officer, Performance, Policy, and Records Management Branch, ASP-110.

[FR Doc. 2016-01312 Filed 1-22-16, 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Notice of Termination of Interim Approval IA-5

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) is incorporated in our regulations, approved by FHWA, and recognized as the national standard for traffic control devices used on all streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel. This notice terminates the Interim Approval for Use of Clearview Font for Positive Contrast Legends on Guide Signs (IA-5), issued September 2, 2004, as authorized by Section 1A.10 of the MUTCD, and discontinues the provisional use of an alternative lettering style in traffic control device applications. The result of this termination rescinds the use of letter styles other than the FHWA Standard Alphabets on traffic control devices, except as provided otherwise in the MUTCD. Existing signs that use the provisional letter style and comply with the Interim Approval are unaffected by this action and may remain as long as they are in serviceable condition. This

action does not create a mandate for the removal or installation of any sign. This action does not amend any provision of the MUTCD.

DATES: Effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, contact Mr. Kevin Sylvester, MUTCD Team Leader, FHWA Office of Transportation Operations, (202) 366-2161, or via email at Kevin.Sylvester@dot.gov. For legal questions, please contact Mr. William Winne, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1397, or via email at William.Winne@dot.gov. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Numerous research efforts have taken place over the last 15 years with the goal of improving the legibility of highway signs. One area of focus has been on guide signs. As a result of some early studies,¹ FHWA issued an Interim Approval allowing provisional use of an alternative lettering style known as Clearview™ for signs in positive contrast color orientations (lighter legend on darker background).² Although the research supported only one series of this lettering style, the Interim Approval was written in a way that would authorize narrower letter forms, to correspond to the system of the FHWA Standard Alphabets, in anticipation of successful future research evaluations. However, subsequent evaluations showed no benefit to the narrower letter forms and degraded sign legibility when compared to the corresponding FHWA Standard Alphabet series.³ Additionally, tests of alternative lettering in negative contrast color orientations (dark legend on lighter background, such as for regulatory and warning signs) showed no improvement and significantly degraded legibility of the sign.⁴

¹ Carlson, P.J., *Evaluation of Clearview Alphabet with Microprismatic Retroreflective Sheatings*, Report No. FHWA/TX-02/4049-1. Texas Transportation Institute, August 2001, resubmitted October 2001.

² Interim Approval 5 can be accessed at the following Web address: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-ia_clearview_font.htm.

³ Chrysler, S.T., P.J. Carlson, and H.G. Hawkins. *Nighttime Legibility of Ground-Mounted Traffic Signs as a Function of Font, Color, and Retroreflective Sheeting Type*, Report No. FHWA/TX-03/1796-2. Texas Transportation Institute, September 2002.

⁴ Holick, A., S.T. Chrysler, E. Park, and P.J. Carlson. *Evaluation of the Clearview™ Font for Negative Contrast Traffic Signs*, Report No. FHWA/

Continued

Ultimately, the consistent finding among all the research evaluations is that the brightness of the retroreflective sheeting is the primary factor in nighttime legibility.

The presence and availability of two separate letter styles with differing criteria have resulted in significant confusion and inconsistency in highway sign design, fabrication processes, and application. Although the terms of FHWA's 2004 Interim Approval are explicit, misunderstandings and misapplications of the provisional letter style have resulted. Inconsistent sign design practices are becoming more common and may have coincided with the provisional allowance of an alternative lettering style due to a lack of consistent implementation and inaccurate presumptions that lesser sign design criteria, such as reduced interline and edge spacing, are broadly acceptable. Additionally, many agencies believed that the alternative lettering style should be used in all applications and that all lettering should be displayed in upper and lowercase lettering, regardless of the type of message. There is also considerable confusion that the requirement of the MUTCD to display destination and street names in upper and lowercase lettering equates to the use of the provisional lettering style rather than the Standard Alphabets. In actuality, there is no interdependency between letter style and case.

Purpose of This Notification

Uniformity in the display of traffic control devices is central to the underlying foundation of the MUTCD. As such, FHWA establishes the criteria therein with uniformity in mind. This uniformity extends not only to the

content of the message displayed, but also to the format and appearance of the display itself. Although seldom specifically identifiable by the motorist, non-uniformity of a sign display or sequence of signs might exhibit itself in less direct ways, such as diminished legibility requiring additional glance time directed toward a sign or group of signs instead of toward the traffic on the road.

The FHWA is committed to exploring solutions that can significantly contribute to enhanced road user safety and are readily and feasibly implemented. In this particular case, there is no benefit of the alternative method that cannot be similarly achieved within the established practice. In many cases, the established practice actually demonstrated benefits that the alternative could not achieve. The FHWA believes that devoting further resources to the development of an alternative will not yield dramatically different results that would warrant an institutional change.

Conclusion

Based on these findings, FHWA does not intend to pursue further consideration, development, or support of an alternative letter style. Accordingly, FHWA discontinues further implementation of an alternative letter style and terminates and rescinds the Interim Approval for new signing installations, except as otherwise provided in the MUTCD. Existing signs that use the provisional letter style and comply with the Interim Approval are unaffected by this action and may remain as long as they are in serviceable condition. This action does not create a mandate for the removal or installation of any sign. This action does not amend any provision of the MUTCD.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 101(a), 104, 109(d), 114(a), 217, 315, and 402(a); 23 CFR 1.32; and, 49 CFR 1.85.

Issued on: January 15, 2016.

Gregory G. Nadeau,
Administrator, Federal Highway
Administration.

[FR Doc. 2016-01383 Filed 1-22-16; 8 45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

National Research Advisory Council, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2, that the National Research Advisory Council will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, in Room 730 at 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m., and is open to the public. Anyone attending must show a valid photo ID to building security and be escorted to the meeting. Please allow 15 minutes before the meeting begins for this process.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Members of the public wanting to attend, or needing further information may contact Pauline Cilladi-Rehrer, Designated Federal Officer, ORD (10P9), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 443-5607, or by email at pauline.cilladi-rehrer@va.gov at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 19, 2016.

Rebecca Schiller,
Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-01297 Filed 1-22-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P