

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

RHODE ISLAND – State Specific Signs

ADA Parking Signs

Overview:

All states must comply with The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It is a federal wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADAAG) stipulates design standards for accessible parking spaces. Section 502.6 of ADAAG and The Department of Transportation Standard for Highway Signs (MUTCD) both address design standards for the required signs.

Resources:

2010 ADAAG Standards: (Free)

http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

MUTCD Standard for Highway Signs: (Free)

https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/SHSe/shs_2004_2012_sup.pdf

Design of Parking Signs:

- Accessible parking spaces must have a sign that includes the international symbol of accessibility and state “RESERVED PARKING.” Spaces designed for van parking must also have a sign stating “VAN ACCESSIBLE.” (ADAAG 502.6), (MUTCD R7-8)
- The sign should be 12”W x 18”H with green lettering and border on a white background. The symbol of accessibility should be 4”H and be white on a blue background. The symbol is a depiction of a person in a wheel chair. (MUTCD R7-8), (ADAAG 703.7.2.1)
- If required, the van accessible sign should be 12”W x 6”H and have green lettering and border on a white background or white lettering and border on a blue background. (MUTCD R7-8a, R&-8b)
- Signs should be mounted at least 60 inches above the parking surface so as to not be obstructed by any parked vehicles.
- Signs should be constructed to withstand the elements. An aluminum substrate with a reflective surface using UV stable ink is recommended. An anti-graffiti laminate surface might also be considered.
- Of note: Federal accessibility signs avoid the use of the text “handicapped” or “disabled” as a result of the Department of Justice’s efforts to make use of up-to-date accepted terminology and avoid stereotyping of individuals. (28CFR35.104)
- As of 9/1/2019 we are not aware of any additional ADA parking sign requirements in Rhode Island other than those specified by the federal government in the 2010 ADAAG.

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Rhode Island No Smoking Signs

Overview:

The State of Rhode Island prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to designated hotel/motel rooms, tobacco stores, and cigar bars. The Public Health and Workplace Safety Act went into effect on 2/5/2005 and is administered by the Rhode Island Department of Health. (R23-20.10-2.1) (R23-20.10-7)

Resources:

Rhode Island Regulation: (Free)

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE23/23-20.10/INDEX.HTM>

Department of Health Website: (Free)

<http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/tobaccocontrol/index.php>

Design of No Smoking Signs:

- The owner or other person in control of a workplace where smoking is prohibited must post at each entrance a “No Smoking” sign or the international no smoking symbol, consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it. The sign must also include the words “It is Illegal to Smoke in This Establishment. To Report a Violation Call Rhode Island Department of Health: 401-222-3293.” (R23-20.10-7)
- Though not required by the law, it is common to post a “Smoking Permitted” sign at facilities and areas where smoking is permitted.

Rhode Island Swimming Pool Signs

Overview:

The Rhode Island Department of Health stipulates the rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code requires the posting of signs at public swimming pools and spas.

Resources:

Rhode Island Regulation: (Free)

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/216-50-05-4>

NSP Foundation: (Free)

http://nspf.org/en/Resources/News_StateCodes.aspx

Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

Below are the required Rhode Island swimming pool and spa signs. See the Rhode Island regulation for more specific posting and design information.

- A sign stating various pool rules. (216-RICR-50-05-4.6.6A)
- A sign stating various spa rules. (216-RICR-50-05-4.6.6B)

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Concealed Weapon Signs

Overview:

Rhode Island allows residents of the state to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit granted by the Attorney General through the local municipality in which they reside. Among the requirements for issuing a permit are; the applicant must be 21 years of age, demonstrate a proper need to carry a firearm, does not have a serious mental illness, and has not been convicted of a felony. Rhode Island does not honor the CCW of any other states. (11-47-18)

Resources:

Rhode Island Regulation: (Free) <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE11/11-47/11-47-8.HTM>

Handgunlaw.com/Rhode Island: (Free) <http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/rhodeisland.pdf>

Design of Concealed Weapons Signs:

- Some states that allow CCW, with or without a required permit, have “opt out” laws that empower a private business to voluntarily create a “weapons free” zone by posting a “no concealed weapons allowed” sign on their premises. Rhode Island law does not empower a business to create a “weapons free” zone by posting a sign, nor does it explicitly forbid the posting of such signs at businesses or facilities where CCW is forbidden.

Cell Phone Signs

Overview:

The State of Rhode Island bans the use of hand-held cell phones by all drivers of motorized vehicles. This law went into effect on June 1, 2019. Drivers under the age of 18 and school bus drivers may not use cell phones while driving.

Resources:

Rhode Island Regulation: (Free) <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/title31/31-22/31-22-30.HTM>

Handsfreeinfo.com: (Free) <http://handsfreeinfo.com/rhode-island-cell-phone-laws-legislation>

Design of Cell Phone Signs:

- As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any mandatory “no cell phone” sign postings required in Rhode Island.
- An efficient way to remind both commercial and private drivers of cell phone bans is to apply a “No Cell Phone Use While Driving” safety label or window decal to cars, taxi cabs, trucks, and buses.

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(Cell Phone Signs Continued)

- Of note: Because cell phones can be distractive by nature, it is common to see signs regulating cell phone use in public buildings such as theaters, airports, courtrooms, hospitals, buses, schools and school traffic zones.

Baby Surrender Signs

Overview:

Since the first baby surrender (safe-haven) law was enacted in Texas in 1999, all U.S. states, as well as the District of Columbia, have passed safe-haven legislation. The laws allow an unharmed infant to be relinquished to the proper authorities.

Resources:

Rhode Island Regulation: (Free) http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/RhodeIsland_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf

NSH Alliance: (Free) <https://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/>

Design of Baby Surrender Signs:

- Rhode Island allows for the relinquishing of a new born infant (30 days old or less) by a parent who no longer wishes to have custody of the child. Rhode Island law states an infant may be relinquished at any hospital, fire station, or law enforcement agency as defined by the statute. As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any requirement in the law for the posting of signs. (23-13.1)

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