

**SUPERSEDED BY EI 86-004  
EFFECTIVE 5/15/86**

# ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT: SIGN LATERAL CLEARANCE AND HEIGHT  
REQUIREMENTS**

Subject Code: 7.27-2-645

Distribution:

31 Main Office

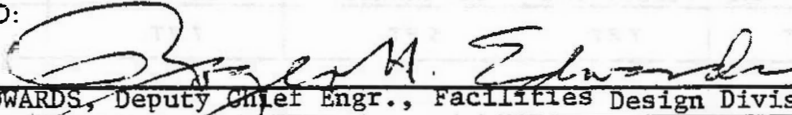
33 Regions

34 Special

Code: EI 85-5

Date: 1-16-85

APPROVED:



R. H. EDWARDS, Deputy Chief Engr., Facilities Design Division

Supersedes:  
EI 83-41

This Engineering Instruction modifies the Sign Clearance Requirements issued by Engineering Instruction 83-41. The changes are necessary to bring the tables into conformance with the Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The changes affect the lateral clearance requirements of expressways and place expressways in the same category as freeways.

Lateral clearance depends on shoulder width and the presence of curbs. Height is a function of lateral clearance and the likelihood of parked cars or pedestrians. The designer should consider these lateral clearance and height requirements in determining mounting heights for selecting the slip base and post size. To implement these changes in contracts, the Final Plan Review Bureau will insert the new note on the back of this Engineering Instruction in contract proposals.

This Engineering Instruction takes effect with the letting of May 9, 1985.

PREL.	FINAL
DESIGN	LANDSCAPE
RECEIVED	
FACILITIES DESIGN DIVISION	
JAN 24 1985	
CRC.	FILE

### Sign Clearance Requirements

Delete the lateral clearance and height requirements given on Standard Sheets 645-7, 645-13R1, 645-20, 645-23 and 645-24 and replace with the following:

	HEIGHT FROM THE PAVEMENT EDGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SIGN				
	CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS		FREEWAYS		RAMPS
	NO PARKED VEHICLES OR PEDESTRIANS	PARKED VEHICLES OR PEDESTRIANS	30 FT. OR GREATER LATERAL CLEARANCE	LESS THAN 30 FT. LATERAL CLEARANCE	
MUTCD CODE G&I	5 FT.	7 FT.	5 FT.	7 FT.	5 FT.
MUTCD CODE G&I WITH SECONDARY PANEL	4 FT.	6 FT.	5 FT.	5 FT.	4 FT.
MUTCD CODE R, P, W, M	5 FT.	7 FT.	—	6 FT.	5 FT.
MUTCD CODE R, P, W, M WITH TWO OR MORE PANELS	4 FT.	6 FT.	—	6 FT.	4 FT.

	LATERAL CLEARANCE TO THE EDGE OF THE SIGN						
	RURAL CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS		URBAN CONVENTIONAL HIGHWAYS			FREEWAYS & EXPRESSWAYS	
	SHOULDER WIDTH OF LESS THAN 6 FT.	SHOULDER WIDTH OF 6 FT. OR GREATER	SHOULDER WIDTH OF LESS THAN 6 FT.	SHOULDER WIDTH OF 6 FT. OR GREATER	CURBED SECTIONS	SHOULDER WIDTHS OF LESS THAN 6 FT.	SHOULDER WIDTHS OF 6 FT. OR GREATER
MUTCD CODE R, P, W, M, G & I	12 FT. MIN. FROM THE PAVEMENTS EDGE	6 FT. MIN. FROM THE SHOULDERS EDGE	12 FT. MIN. FROM THE PAVEMENTS EDGE WHERE FEASIBLE OR 2 FT. MINIMUM	6 FT. MIN FROM THE SHOULDERS EDGE WHERE FEASIBLE OR 2 FT. MINIMUM	2 FT. MIN. FROM THE CURB FACE	12 FT. MIN. FROM THE PAVEMENT EDGE (SEE NOTE 5)	6 FT. MIN. FROM THE SHOULDERS EDGE (SEE NOTE 5)

- Notes:
1. Where there is guide rail the lateral clearance may be reduced to not less than two feet beyond the guide rail; except that signs on post types 8-14 shall have the minimum clearance from the back face of the guide rail to the first post as given on Standard Sheet 645-13R1.
  2. Where there are physical limitations or visibility considerations and the above requirements cannot be met, the signs shall be located as directed by the Engineer.
  3. In addition to the height requirements given above, signs on posts with slip bases from Standard Sheets 645-13R1 and 645-30 shall have a minimum clearance from the ground surface to the bottom of the lowest panel of 5 ft. min.
  4. Signs along bicycle paths shall have lateral clearance of at least 3 ft. from the edge of the path and height of at least 4 ft. above the path.
  5. Where feasible on freeways and expressways, a 30 ft. minimum lateral clearance from the edge of pavement is desirable for large guide signs.