

**Article XIV
Sign Regulations**

Section 1 - General Provisions

1. The following types of signs are prohibited in all zoning districts:
 - (a) Any sign of which all or any part is in motion by any means, including fluttering, rotating or other moving signs set in motion by movement of the atmosphere.
 - (b) Any sign displaying flashing or intermittent lights or lights of changing degrees of intensity, except a sign indicating time or temperature, with changes alternating on not less than five second cycle, or message board, when such sign does not constitute a public safety or traffic hazard, in the judgment of the Zoning Administrator.
 - (c) Any lighting either by exposed tubing or strings of lights, either outlining any part of a building or affixed to any ornamental feature thereof.
 - (d) Any sign that obscures or interferes with a sign displayed by public authority for the purpose of giving traffic instructions or direction or other public information.
 - (e) Any sign that uses the word “stop” or “danger” or otherwise presents or implies the need or requirement of stopping or caution of the existence of danger or which is a copy or imitation of or which for any reason is likely to be confused with any sign displayed by public authority.
 - (f) Any sign that obstructs any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress for any building, as required by law.
 - (g) Any sign or illumination that causes any direct glare into or upon any building other than the building to which the sign may be related.
 - (h) Any sign that violates any provision of any law of the State relative to outdoor advertising.
2. General advertising signs may be permitted only if necessary to direct customers to a place of business located within Caroline County. The primary intent of such signs shall be directional and not for advertising purposes. In no case shall the combined square footage for off-site signs exceed one hundred (100) square feet, nor shall any one sign exceed twenty-five (25) square feet.
3. No sign shall be located or illuminated in such a manner as, in the opinion of the Zoning Administrator, to cause a traffic hazard. Where a permit is required, the permit shall not be issued until the location and illumination, if any, of the sign are approved by the Zoning Administrator, who may consult with the Resident Highway Office, Virginia Department of Highways, to assist him in determining whether a traffic hazard exists.

4. No part of any sign projecting more than twelve (12) inches from any wall or from any other support shall be not less than ten (10) feet above the level of the ground at that point. Signs projecting over vehicle travel lanes shall be not less than fourteen (14) feet above ground level.
5. Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a structure or premises or the public, or is erected or maintained in violation of this Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall order such sign to be made safe or comply with this Ordinance, as the case may be, or be removed. Such order shall be sent by registered mail and shall be complied with within twelve (12) days from the date of mailing said order by the persons owning or responsible for the sign.
6. Signs shall be exempt from setback requirements in all zones provided, however, that no sign shall be so located as to interfere with vehicular sight distances at intersections or to create a safety hazard
7. Any internally illuminated sign must have a U.L. Label or the electrical system must be approved by the building inspector.
8. A bulletin board not exceeding twenty-four (24) square feet in size may be permitted in any use district provided that such bulletin board is used in conjunction with churches, schools, or similar places of public assembly.

Section 2 - Signs Permitted in Rural Preservation (RP) District

(Amended 3/28/95)

1. Home occupation signs provided that the maximum of such signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
2. Public signs.
3. Subdivision signs.
4. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet and that not more than two (2) such signs shall be located on any lot or premises.
5. Business signs provided that (a) no portion of a freestanding sign shall be greater than twenty (20) feet from ground level, (b) no wall sign shall be greater in height than the roof line of the main building located on the premises, (c) the aggregate area of wall signs shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet. There shall be no more than one (1) freestanding sign on any one lot or premises, except that where said lot or premises fronts on two or more streets a second such sign is permitted.
6. General advertising signs provided that such signs meet the specifications contained herein.

Section 3 - Signs Permitted in Agricultural Preservation (AP) District

(Amended 3/28/95)

1. Home occupation signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet.

2. Public signs.
3. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet and that not more than two (2) such signs shall be located on any lot or premises.
4. Business signs provided that (a) no portion of a freestanding sign shall be greater than twenty (20) feet from ground level, (b) no wall sign shall be greater in height than the roof line of the main building located on the premises, (c) the aggregate area of wall signs shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet. There shall be no more than one (1) freestanding sign on any one lot or premises, except that where said lot or premises fronts on two or more streets a second such sign is permitted.

Section 4 - Signs Permitted in Residential (R-1, R-2 and R-3) Districts

1. Home occupation signs provided that the maximum size shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
2. Public signs.
3. Subdivision Signs.
4. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size shall not exceed four (4) square feet and that not more than one (1) such size shall be located on any lot or premises.

Section 5 - Signs Permitted in Mobile Home Parks (MHP-1)

1. Same as those permitted in Residential (R-1, R-2 and R-3) Districts.

Section 6 - Signs Permitted in Planned Unit Development (PUD-1) Districts

1. Same as those permitted in Residential (R-1, R-2 and R-3) Districts.
2. By special exception, business signs provided that (1) freestanding signs shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height and one-hundred (100) square feet in size and (2) wall signs shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in size.

Section 7 - Signs Permitted in Business (B-1) and Industrial (M-1) Districts

1. Public signs.
2. Temporary event signs provided that the maximum size of such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet and that not more than two (2) such signs shall be located on any lot or premises.
3. General advertising signs provided that such signs meet the specifications contained herein.
4. Business signs provided that such signs meet the following standards:
 - (a) For individual businesses and industries not located in shopping centers or industrial parks - one (1) freestanding sign shall be permitted on any lot or premises except that lots having frontage on two streets shall be permitted to erect two such signs provided that the combined square footage

shall not exceed the total normally permitted for one sign. Such signs shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height. The aggregate size of all such signs shall not exceed two and one-half (2-1/2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of 300 square feet for each side of a building which faces a street.

- (b) In shopping centers and industrial parks - one (1) freestanding sign shall be permitted identifying the shopping center or industrial park. Such sign may list the tenants of the center/park but shall not exceed forty (40) feet in height. The maximum size of such signs shall be two and one-half (2-1/2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of street frontage provided however that no such sign shall exceed four hundred (400) square feet. Centers/parks having more than one street frontage may have an additional sign for each additional street frontage. Each store or industry may have one wall sign. The maximum height of such signs shall not exceed five (5) feet above the height of the building. The maximum size of such signs shall be two and one-half (2-1/2) square feet of sign area for each lineal foot of building frontage up to a maximum of one hundred (100) square feet. Each store or industry shall also be permitted one (1) identification sign not to exceed ten (10) square feet in size on the rear of the building to identify the tenant and one under canopy sign not to exceed six (6) square feet in size.

Section 8 - Sign Permits; Applications; and Fees

(Amended 10/28/97)

No sign shall be erected, constructed, posted, painted, altered, maintained, or relocated without first obtaining a sign permit from the Zoning Administrator. The application for a sign permit shall be made on the provided forms and submitted to the Zoning Administrator's office. Each application shall be accompanied by a set of plans showing the dimension of the sign; its structure, character, and design; the method of illumination, if any; and the exact location proposed for the sign. The fee for each sign shall be in the amount set forth in the fee schedule adopted separately by the Caroline County Board of Supervisors.