

CHAPTER 168

ZONING – SIGN REGULATIONS

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168.01 PURPOSE. This chapter is established to protect and promote health, safety, general welfare and order within the City through the establishment of comprehensive and uniform standards, regulations and procedures governing the type, numbers, size, structure, location, height, lighting, erection, use or display of devices, signs or symbols serving as a visual communications media to persons situated within or upon public rights-of-way or private properties. The provisions of this chapter are intended to encourage opportunity for effective, aesthetically compatible and orderly communications by reducing confusion and hazards resulting from unnecessary or indiscriminate use of communications facilities. No sign shall be erected, constructed, altered or modified except as regulated by the provisions of this chapter.

168.02 DEFINITIONS. The following terms, for the purposes of this chapter, have the meanings stated herein:

1. "Address sign" means a sign communicating street address only, whether written or in numerical form.
2. "Billboard" means a sign advertising a service, business or product not offered for sale or made available on the same zoning lot on which the sign is located.
3. "Campaign sign" means a temporary sign promoting the candidacy of a person running for a governmental office, or promoting an issue to be voted upon at a governmental election.
4. "Construction sign" means a sign placed at construction site identifying the project or the name of the architect, engineer, contractor, financier or other involved parties.
5. "Directional sign" means a sign erected on public or private property which bears the address and name of a business, institution, church or other use or activity plus directional arrows or information on location.
6. "Flashing sign" means any illuminated sign that has artificial light or color which is not maintained at a constant intensity or color when such sign is in use.
7. "Freestanding sign" means a sign located on a pole, upright or bracing which is independent of any building or any other structure.
8. "Governmental sign" means a sign which is erected by a governmental unit.
9. "Information sign" means any sign giving information to employees, visitors or delivery vehicles, but containing no advertising or identification.
10. "Joint identification sign" means a freestanding sign which identifies a subdivision, a multiple residential complex consisting of three or more structures, a

<i>Sign Type</i>	<i>Size Limitations</i>
Wall signs	2 square feet for each linear foot of building frontage
Real estate signs	20 square feet
Government signs	No limitation
Address signs	3 square feet
Campaign signs	8 square feet
Directional signs	3 square feet
Informational signs	3 square feet
Joint identification signs	15 square feet for each business, industry or residential complex advertising on the joint identification sign
Projecting sign	16 square feet
Temporary signs	9 square feet and also subject to the regulations included in Section 168.06 of this chapter
Construction signs	32 square feet

2. Highway Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Districts.

A. Only two permanent signs are permitted per zoning lot; one must be a wall sign and one may be a projecting sign or a freestanding sign located not more than 150 feet from the principal building.

B. The following sign types are prohibited in the industrial and agricultural districts:

(1) Flashing signs;

(2) Temporary signs.

C. Only the following types of signs are permitted in the Highway Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Districts (such signs shall be subject to the size limitations set forth herein):

<i>Sign Type</i>	<i>Size Limitations</i>
Real estate signs	20 square feet
Government signs	No limitation
Address signs	6 square feet
Campaign signs	18 square feet
Informational signs	3 square feet
Directional signs	3 square feet
Joint identification signs	15 square feet for each business, industry or residential complex advertising on the joint identification sign
Wall sign	2 square feet for each linear foot of building frontage
Billboards	100 square feet
Freestanding signs	100 square feet
Construction signs	50 square feet
Projecting signs	24 square feet

3. Residential Districts.

A. The following sign types are prohibited:

(1) Flashing signs;

(2) Projecting signs;

(3) Billboards;

consecutive days. No business proprietor shall be allowed more than three (3) such periods in any calendar year.

6. Clearance. All signs located over public rights-of way or any public or private access route (sidewalk, mall, etc.) shall be located a minimum of 12 feet above grade level.

7. Safe Ingress and Egress. No sign or part thereof shall be erected or maintained so as to prevent or deter free ingress and egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign or sign structure shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.

8. Signs Required By Law. All signs required by law are permitted in all districts.

9. Back to Back Signs. If a freestanding sign or sign structure is constructed so that the faces are not back to back, the angle shall not exceed thirty degrees (30°). If the angle is greater than 30°, the total area of both sides added together shall be the calculated sign area. Back to back signs (when less than 30°) shall be considered as one sign when debited against the total number of signs permitted on one zoning lot.

10. Roof Signs. Roof signs are not permitted except for a business sign that is attached to the parapet wall and extending above the building height except where no alternative is available, as determined by the Board of Adjustment.

11. Obsolete Signs. Obsolete signs which advertise an activity, business product or service which is no longer produced or conducted on the premises shall be removed within ninety (90) days from date of notice provided by the City. The owner of the property on which the sign is located shall have ninety (90) days from date of notice to remove any such sign. If after the expiration of the 90-day period, the sign has not been removed, the City may cause the sign to be removed and any expenses may be charged back to the property owner. Businesses which are seasonal in nature are exempt from the obsolete sign provisions.

12. Illumination. All externally illuminated signs shall be constructed so as to direct the source of light away from adjacent properties or public streets.

13. Animated Signs. Animated signs may be allowed as a special exception requiring a hearing before the Board of Adjustment.

14. Double Frontage. Lots having frontage on two (2) streets or on a street and an alley shall be permitted to provide the maximum number and square footage of signs on each of the opposite ends of said lot; provided, however, not more than the maximum number of square feet of signs per frontage may be viewed simultaneously.

15. Permit Required. No sign except permitted signs as identified herein shall be erected, altered, constructed or modified without first receiving a valid sign permit from the City.

16. Sign Permit Application. The application for a sign permit shall contain such information as may be deemed necessary for the proper enforcement of this chapter.

17. Permit Fees. To defray administrative costs of processing requests for sign permits, the applicant for a sign permit shall pay to the City Clerk a fee in the amount established by the City Council.

\$15 fee.

APPLICATION FOR SIGN PERMIT
Emmetsburg, Iowa

Name of Sign Owner/Business _____

Name of Person completing application _____
and address _____

Phone Number _____

Location of sign to be constructed (be as specific as possible.
Include legal description and address of property, if known).

Owner of Property _____

Dimensions of Sign _____

Type of Sign _____

Fee Paid \$ _____

Signature of Applicant

SIGN PERMIT

Your application for permit for the sign described above is:

_____ granted
_____ denied
_____ referred to the Emmetsburg
Planning/Zoning Commission &
City Council for review

Basis for denial or referral _____

Zoning Officer for the
City of Emmetsburg, Iowa