

CHAPTER XIX SIGNS AND ADVERTISING STRUCTURES

19-2 BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT OR REPAIR SIGNS.

19-2.1 Permit Required.

No person shall erect, move, alter, change, repair, place, suspend, attach or maintain any advertising structure, cloth or banner sign, or bracket or flange sign without first obtaining a building permit from the Building Official in the manner provided in this section, and in the event any advertising structure is energized or serviced by electricity a separate electrical permit shall be obtained as required by Chapter XVI, Electrical Code.

Repainting of an advertising structure or the changing of copy thereon while such structure remains in place shall not require the issuance of a permit.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8601)

19-2.2 Application for Permit.

Any person desiring a permit as required hereby shall file with the Building Official an application therefore in writing on a blank form to be furnished for that purpose. Every such application for such permit shall describe the land or the building upon which the advertising structure is erected or located, or upon which the proposed advertising structure is to be erected or located, by lot and block, or by street number, or other means which readily will identify the existing or proposed location of the advertising structure for which the permit is sought. Accompanying every application for such a permit, except for a billboard to be erected in accordance with the detailed specifications contained in this section, there shall be filed the plans, drawn to scale and of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, dimensions and engineering design of such structure. All plans for roof signs having an area of one hundred (100) square feet or more, and all other advertising structures having an area of fifty (50) square feet or more, and other signs subject to excessive stresses shall be signed by an engineer or architect and calculations and stress diagrams shall be furnished, except when in the opinion of the Building Official the structural nature of the proposed advertising structure does not require such certified plans.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8601.1)

19-2.3 Approval of Plans.

If the plans and specifications are found to be in conformity with the provisions of this section, the Building Official upon receipt of the required fee shall issue a permit.

When the permit is issued the plan submitted with the application shall be stamped "Approved" and a set of the approved plans shall be kept on the work at all times and no changes, alterations, or modifications shall be made thereon and the advertising structure shall be erected or the work done thereon in conformity therewith, unless authorization to the contrary is obtained from the Building Official.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8601.2)

19-2.4 Permit Fees.

Before a permit is issued under this section, a permit fee therefore shall be paid to the Building Official, according to the table set forth in subsection 14-1.5 of Chapter XIV, Building and Housing.

Whenever any work, for which a permit is required under the provisions of this section, has been commenced without a permit therefore having been issued, the fees above specified shall be doubled, in order to cover the cost of investigation of the work. The payment of such double fee shall not relieve any person from compliance with the provisions of this Code or from any penalty prescribed by law.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8601.3)

19-2.5 Expiration of Permit.

If the work authorized to be done under any permit issued pursuant to this section is not commenced within sixty (60) days from the date of issuance of such permit, such permit shall become null and void and the fee paid therefore by the applicant shall be forfeited. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8601.4)

19-2.6 Issuance of Permit Shall Not Authorize Violations of Law.

The issuance or granting of a permit pursuant to this section shall not authorize nor be an approval of any violation of any of the provisions of this Code, and the Building Official is hereby authorized to stop the work on any advertising structure which is being carried on in violation of this Code. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8601.5)

19-3 ADVERTISING STRUCTURES PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PLACES.

19-3.1 Permitted Projections.

No person shall erect, construct, place or maintain any advertising structure in the following locations except as projections may be permitted by subsection 19-3.2:

- a. Upon or above an alley which is less than sixteen (16') feet in width; nor upon or above any alley sixteen (16') feet or wider, except as may be permitted by subsection 19-3.2 of this Code;
- b. Upon or over any public sidewalk, street, alley or other public places;
- c. So that any portion of such advertising structure will not interfere in any way with the free use of any fire escape, exit, standpipe, ventilator, door or window.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8602; Ord. #976; Ord. #1170)

19-3.2 Projection of Advertising Structures.

No advertising structure or portion thereof shall extend or project over any building line, public sidewalk, street, alley, or other public property, or any private property used or intended to be used by the general public as a sidewalk or street, a greater distance than permitted on Diagram 86A as the same was approved by the Council on the 4th day of March, 1952, and which such diagram is on file in the office of the City Clerk, nor at a height above grade less than as shown on said Diagram 86A. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8603)

19-4 BILLBOARDS.*

*See subsection 30-22.9 of the Compton Municipal Code. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8604; Ord. No. 2215)

19-5 WALL SIGNS, ROOF SIGNS, PROJECTING SIGNS.

Wall signs, roof signs and projecting signs shall be constructed in accordance with subsection 19-5.1 through subsection 19-5.4. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8605)

19-5.1 Design and Construction.

Frames for wall signs, roof signs and projecting signs and supporting construction shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XIV, Building and Housing, with the following exceptions:

- a. All portions of such signs less than sixty (60') feet above grade shall be designed for wind pressure of not less than twenty (20) pounds per square foot. All portions of such structure more than sixty (60') feet above grade shall be designed for a wind pressure of not less than thirty (30) pounds per square foot.
- b. Structural steel members shall be not less than one-fourth (1/4") inch thick if ungalvanized, and three-sixteenth (3/16") inch thick if all members, including bolts and fastenings, are galvanized. Bolts and rivets used

in sign structures supporting signs one hundred (100) square feet in area or more shall not be less than one-half (1/2") inch in diameter if galvanized. Bolts and rivets used in sign structures supporting signs less than one hundred (100) square feet in area shall not be less than three-eighths (3/8") inch in diameter if galvanized. Supports shall be designed so that all loads and reactions shall be transmitted to the ground, through the structural framework and walls of supporting buildings and structures. Signs erected on buildings or structures shall be attached securely by means of adequate metal brackets, expansion bolts, through bolts, or lag screws. No material or equipment shall be used which may become dangerous because of vibration, corrosion, disintegration or for any other reason whatsoever. Wire, other than stranded cable, shall not be considered as adequate fastenings, except for cloth and banner signs. If supports of an existing structure are found to be inadequate, such inadequacies shall be corrected upon the order of the Building Official. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8605.1)

19-5.2 Projecting Signs.

Projecting signs attached to a building shall be of incombustible material or of not less than one (1) hour fire resistance construction. The thickness of any such sign shall not exceed the following:

For a maximum projection of five (5') feet, a thickness of two (2') feet.

For a maximum projection of four (4') feet, a thickness of two and six-tenths (2.6') feet.

For a maximum projection of three (3') feet, a thickness of three (3') feet.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8605.2)

19-5.3 Wall Signs.

Wall signs extending a height of fifteen (15') feet above grade shall have a surface of incombustible material but may have ornamental moldings and lattice work of combustible material. Such signs may project not more than six (6') feet above the roof or parapet immediately adjacent thereto and may project over the same only if a six (6') foot wide unobstructed passageway to the roof is maintained at each end of the sign; provided, however, no wall sign shall project above a roof or parapet wall when within three (3') feet of a standpipe, fire escape, or fire escape ladder. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8605.3)

19-5.4 Roof Signs.

Roof signs shall be of incombustible material except that wood moldings and two (2") inch thick plank walkways may be used. Blocks, angles or supports fastened to the roof shall be located so as not to interfere with the drainage of the roof, and when necessary, flashing or counter flashing shall be used.

Passages clear of all obstructions shall be left under or around all such signs exceeding a height of four (4') feet, immediately thereunder or adjacent thereto.

No roof sign on a type II, III, IV, or V building or structure, as the same are defined in Chapter XIV, Building and Housing, shall exceed a height of thirty (30') feet above the top of the parapet nearest the sign, or above the highest point of the roof directly thereunder in case there is no parapet. On a Type I building, as the same is defined in Chapter XIV, no roof sign shall extend more than thirty (30') feet above the top of the parapet nearest the sign, or above the highest point of the roof directly under the sign, unless the height of the building is more than thirty (30') feet, in which case the height of the sign may be fifty (50') feet; provided, however, that letters, figures, characters, or representations in cut-out, or irregular form may be maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or imposed upon any solid roof sign, but shall not exceed more than fifteen (15') feet above the height limit of the sign; provided, further, that the total surface area of the solid portion of such letters, figures, characters, or representations in cut-out, or irregular form extending above the top molding of the solid roof sign shall not exceed thirty (30%) percent of the total area of the surface sign space of such sign, and the total surface area of the solid portion of any one (1) individual letter, figure, character, or representation in cut-out, or irregular form extending above the top molding of such sign shall not exceed ten (10%) percent of the total area of the surface of such sign.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing in this subsection, roof signs on one (1) story buildings may be constructed of wood not less than three-fourths (3/4") inch thick, or plywood not less than one-half (1/2") inch thick, provided:

- a. No portion of the sign extends more than four (4') feet above the roof directly thereunder; and
- b. If any portion of the sign is within four (4') feet of the street side of the building a six (6') foot unobstructed passage must be maintained at each end of the sign and at least every fifty (50') feet in the length of the sign.

Roof signs may project beyond the face of a building at right angles thereto if such projection complies with the provisions of this section for projecting signs.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8605.4)

19-6 TYPES OF SIGNS REGULATED.

19-6.1 Marquee Signs.

Signs may be placed or attached to, or constructed on a marquee, and for the purpose of determining projection, clearance, height and material shall be considered a part of and shall meet the requirements for a marquee as provided in Chapter XIV, Building and Housing. Projecting signs attached to a building also may be attached to a marquee. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8606)

19-6.2 Cloth and Banner Sign.

Cloth and banner signs shall be of strong construction and securely attached flat against the building. All such signs shall be removed within sixty (60) days after erection. Cloth signs and banners shall be flame proofed as required by the Fire Chief if the area exceeds one hundred (100) square feet on the face of the building. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8607)

19-6.3 Reserved.*

***Editor's Note:** Former subsection 19-6.3, Street Banners, previously codified herein and containing portions of Ordinance No. 884, was repealed in its entirety by Ordinance No. 2211. See Section 19-10 for street banners.

19-6.4 Ground Sign.

Any standard which supports a ground sign shall be of structural steel or iron pipe and shall be set in the ground in concrete to a depth of not less than seven (7') feet, and such concrete shall extend outward from such standard in all directions for a distance of not less than eighteen (18") inches. The maximum height of a ground sign may be increased to thirty (30') feet upon approval of the Building Official. A sign made of any material and erected upon a wooden pole shall be considered to meet the requirements of this subsection when such post is at least six (6") inches by six (6") inches and has been treated with an approved wood preservative and the advertising surface of the sign supported thereby does not exceed twenty-five (25) square feet, and the highest portion thereof is not more than fifteen (15') feet above grade; provided further that such a sign upon a wooden standard shall be at least fifteen (15') feet from every property line. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8609)

19-6.5 Flange or Bracket Type Signs.

No person shall erect, construct, repair or maintain a flange or bracket type sign unless the same first is approved by the Building Official and unless such sign meets the following requirements: Such sign shall not have an area greater than three (3) square feet and shall not extend more than two (2') feet over public property or any building line and shall be maintained at least eight (8') feet above grade. No such sign shall be erected or maintained on that portion of any building which faces an alley. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8610)

19-6.6 Portable Signs.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to moveable or portable poster boards, portable A-boards, folding signs and similar moveable signs with no advertising surface thereon larger than twenty-four (24) square feet when such signs do not exceed six (6') feet in height and when such signs are used to advertise goods, wares, or merchandise, or the carrying on of a business or profession and are located on the premises where such goods, wares, or merchandise is sold or such business or profession is carried on. All such signs shall be anchored or weighted to hold them substantially erect.

Notwithstanding anything in Section 29-7 of this Code to the contrary, portable signs of less than twelve (12) square feet in surface area may be placed between the front property line and any setback line established pursuant to the provisions of Chapter XXIX, Setback Lines, when the location of the same has been approved by the Building Official and for such length of time as may be determined reasonable by said Official, when in the opinion of said Official the placing of such sign would not in any way be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the City.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8611)

19-6.7 Combination Advertising Structures.

Each portion of an advertising structure which is subject to more than one classification shall meet the requirements for the classification to which such portion is subject. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8612)

19-7 ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.

19-7.1 Identification.

Every advertising structure shall have placed thereon the name of the person erecting, constructing, owning, or controlling the same and such identification shall be plainly and prominently marked, painted, or outlined in a location on such structure where such information shall be readily visible after installation and erection of such structure. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8613)

19-7.2 Maintenance.

Advertising structures shall be maintained at all times in a state of good repair with all braces, bolts, supporting frame and fastenings free from deterioration, termite infestation, rot, rust, or loosening. They shall be able at all times to withstand safely the wind pressure for which they originally were designed, and which in no case should be less than fifteen (15) pounds per square foot. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8614)

19-7.3 Removal of Weeds and Rubbish.

No person erecting, constructing, maintaining or having control of any advertising structure shall fail, refuse, or neglect to remove or cause to be removed all weeds, rubbish, or any flammable waste or material from the base of any such structure built or constructed of wood or other flammable materials. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8615)

19-7.4 Public Morals.

No person shall exhibit, post or display upon any advertising structure or sign any statement, words or signs of an obscene, indecent or immoral nature, or any picture, illustration or delineation of any human figure in such detail as to offend public morality or decency; or any lewd or lascivious act, or any other matter or thing of an obscene, indecent or immoral nature, or offensive to the moral sense; or any murder, suicide, robbery, holdup, shooting, stabbing, clubbing or beating of any human being, wherein any such act is shown in gruesome detail, or in a revolting manner, or in any manner objectionable to the moral sense. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8616)

19-7.5 Interference With Traffic.

No person shall erect, construct, or maintain any advertising structure or sign the design of which has features which might cause undue distraction to pedestrians or motorists, or which might result in the creation of a hazardous condition, or in any way simulate in size, color, lettering or design any traffic sign. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8617)

19-8 ENFORCEMENT AND INSPECTIONS.

19-8.1 Building Official's Powers.

The Building Official is hereby authorized and directed to enforce all the provisions of this section and may enter any building or upon any premises for the purpose of inspection to determine whether work being carried on is in compliance with the provisions of this section and, in the event he finds any violation of the provisions of this section, or that the same is dangerous or unsafe or a menace to life or property, the Building Official shall have the power to order any dangerous, unsafe, or menacing condition to be corrected and in order to effect the same may stop the work on such advertising structure.

No person shall continue to proceed with any work on any advertising structure in violation of a stop order of the Building Official.

(Added by Ord. #884, § 8618)

19-8.2 Final Inspection.

Any person erecting, constructing, enlarging, altering, or moving any advertising structure, or doing any work thereon for which a permit is required by this section shall call for a final inspection by the Building Official within forty-eight (48) hours after the work authorized to be completed by said permit is completed. If after inspection such advertising structure, or any portion thereof, is found to be in violation of any provision of this section, correction shall be made promptly and the structure shall be made to conform in all respects and another call for final inspection shall be made. No advertising structure shall be considered complete until the final inspection or inspections required by the Building Official have been made. (Added by Ord. #884, § 8619)