

2023 Sign Code Update (Salem City Council – October 23, 2023)

This memo highlights the proposed changes to each section of the sign code.

Proposed Amendments

SRC 900.005 (Definitions; rules of construction)

- Amendments:
 - Add definition of complex added to replace more specific definitions like shopping center, industrial complex and office complex.
 - Removed definition of Nit as a measurement of luminance, as this unit of measurement is proposed to be replaced with foot candles.
 - Add definition of primary building wall.
 - Add definition of emergency directional sign.
 - Add definition for types of temporary signs (Balloon, banner, pennant, and rigid sign).
 - Remove sign tower as this is not regularly used.

SRC 900.010 (General rule)

• No changes.

SRC 900.015 (Exempt signs)

 Updates to this section were previously made under Ord. No. 8-22, no additional updates are proposed with this code amendment.

SRC 900.020 (Prohibited signs)

 Add prohibition for illuminated signs attached to parked motor vehicle, RV, trailer, or other vehicle.

SRC 900.025 (Sign permits)

- Amendments:
 - Clarification added that sign permits are required for temporary signs.
 - Proposed increase to the number of time extensions and expiration date for sign permits.

SRC 900.030 (Exceptions from permit requirement)

- Amendments:
 - Clarify exception from permit requirement for certain temporary signs.
 - Add limit on the maximum amount of area a sign may cover on the inside of a window on a building façade within 30 feet of a public street.
 - Clarification of height allowance for exempt directional signs.
 - Add exemption for art markers identifying pieces of art.
 - Add exemption for flags on poles, and creating height and size allowances for residential and non-residential uses.

SRC 900.035 (Sign adjustments)

Delete section:

 Development standards of the sign code may be adjusted following the procedures of SRC Chapter 250.

SRC 900.040 (Sign variances)

- Delete section:
 - Development standards of the sign code may be varied following the procedures of SRC Chapter 245.

SRC 900.045 (Electronic display sign conditional use permits)

- Delete section:
 - Development standards have been added to the electronic display sign section, the new development standards will replace the need for an Electronic Display Sign Conditional Use Permit.

SRC 900.050 (Inspection; re-inspection)

- Amendments:
 - Minor changes to language.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.035.

SRC 900.055 (Measurements)

- Amendments:
 - Clarified how to measure display surface area of signs and gross face area of building walls.
 - Relocated spacing and density section to outdoor advertising sign development standards.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.040

SRC 900.060 (Materials)

- Amendments:
 - No changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.045.

SRC 900.065 (Sign supports)

- Delete section:
 - This section is not used and is proposed to be removed.

SRC 900.070 (Electronic sign construction)

- Amendments:
 - Minor changes to language.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.050.

SRC 900.075 (General illumination standards; zone-specific standards)

- Amendments:
 - Added prohibition on devices which use light to project images onto the surface of walls or the ground.
 - Created measurable standard prohibiting illuminated signs when they are visible from and within 100 feet of residential zones.
 - Removed redundant sections.
 - For public zones, a measurable setback requirement was created for illuminated signs that are adjacent to residential zones.
 - Clarification of illumination allowances for the PH (Public and Private Health Services) zone for site with and without emergency facilities.

 Renumbered section to SRC 900.055.
SRC 900.080 (Flashing light; zone-specific standards)
 Amendments: Added mixed-use zones to the list of zones where flashing light is not permitted. Renumbered section to SRC 900.060
SRC 900.085 (Effects)
 Amendments: No changes. Renumbered section to SRC 900.065.
SRC 900.090 (Electronic display signs)
 Amendments: Eliminate conditional use permit required for electronic display signs in residential zones. Change method for measuring brightness from nits to foot candles. Renumbered section to SRC 900.070.
SRC 900.095 (Rotating and animated signs; zone-specific standards)
 Amendments: Temporary sign standards have been removed from this section and will be relocated to the temporary sign general standards section. Renumbered section to SRC 900.075.
SRC 900.100 (Signs installed over or within the right-of-way)
 Amendments: No changes. Renumbered section to SRC 900.080.
SRC 900.105 (Signs in vision clearance areas)
 Amendments: No changes. Renumbered section to SRC 900.085.
SRC 900.110 (Signs in special setback areas)
 Amendments: Add clarification that existing signs located in a special setback area that the City requires to be removed or altered shall be subject to all applicable provisions of the sign code, including setbacks, upon replacement or alteration. Renumbered section to SRC 900.090.
SRC 900.115 (Sign location for safety)
 Amendments: Removed standards specific to temporary sidewalk signs from this section, moved to temporary sidewalk sign section. Renumbered section to SRC 900.095.
SRC 900.120 (Sign maintenance)
 Amendments: No changes. Renumbered section to SRC 900.100

SRC 900.125 (Land divisions)

- Amendments:
 - Removed referces to shopping center, office complex, and industrial complex and replaced with the updated definition of complex.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.105.

SRC 900.130 (Freestanding signs)

- Amendments:
 - Clarified that setbacks for freestanding signs do not apply if authorization has been granted to place a freestanding sign in the special setback area or public right-of-way.
 - Remove limit on number of freestanding signs a corner lot may have. This general provision conflicts with the more specific allowances based on zoning.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.110.

SRC 900.135 (Hanging signs)

- Amendments:
 - Remove limits on supporting members for hanging signs.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.115.

SRC 900.140 (Projecting signs)

- Amendments:
 - No changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.120.

SRC 900.145 (Roof signs)

- Amendments:
 - Reduce the maximum height of roof signs based on the height of the main building, added table for clarification.
 - Clarified the setback measurement.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.125.

SRC 900.150 (Wall signs)

- Amendments:
 - Removed projection allowance for wall signs above the roof line that were based on the length of the sign and height of the building and created one standard that is applicable in all cases.
 - Created projection allowances and vertical clearance requirements for wall signs abutting public alleys.
 - Remove sign tower standards.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.130.

SRC 900.155 (Outdoor advertising signs)

- Amendments:
 - Removed redundant section for prohibited locations. Outdoor advertising sign allowances will be found in the permanent sign section for each zone and overlay zone.
 - Clarified allowance for V-type outdoor advertising signs, setback measurements and spacing and density standards.
 - Clarified setback measurement to occupied dwellings and spacing and density standards.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.135.

TEMPORARY SIGNS

SRC 900.160 (Temporary signs, general standards)

- Amendments:
 - Moved illumination, rotation and animation limits for temporary signs from other sections to this section.
 - Added and updated development standards for each type of temporary sign display, including:
 - Lawn signs
 - Rigid signs
 - Sidewalk signs on private property
 - New standards added for this display type.
 - Temporary banners
 - Temporary pennants
 - Added new height limits and display surface standards for this display type.
 - Temporary balloons
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.140.

SRC 900.165 (Temporary signs in residential zones)

- Amendments:
 - Title updated to temporary signs in residential and neighborhood hub zones.
 - Clarified temporary signage allowance for multi-family, group living, and other nonresidential uses.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.145.

SRC 900.170 (Temporary signs in commercial and mixed-use zones)

- Amendments:
 - Clarified temporary signage allowance for multi-family, group living, and other nonresidential uses.
 - Clarified the zones which a pennant or balloon display are permitted.
 - Added new allowance for sidewalk signs in the right-of-way for any use outside of the CB zone, where the building frontage entirely abuts the property line adjacent to a street.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.150.

SRC 900.175 (Temporary signs in industrial zones)

- Amendments:
 - Public zones added to this section.
 - Clarified temporary signage allowance for multi-family, group living, and other nonresidential uses.
 - Clarified the zones which a pennant or balloon display are permitted.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.155.

SRC 900.180 (Temporary signs in public zones)

- Delete section:
 - This section is proposed to be removed. Temporary signs in public zones will be combined with temporary signs in industrial zones in SRC 900.155.

PERMANENT SIGNS

SRC 900.185 (Permanent signs in residential zones)

- Amendments:
 - For sites containing multiple dwellings an additional wall sign allowance was created for each dwelling unit.
 - Clarified signage allowance for residential uses, non-residential standalone uses, complexes, and individual uses within a complex.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.160.

SRC 900.190 (Permanent signs in the Fairview Mixed-Use (FMU) Zone)

• This section is proposed to be removed and combined with the permanent sign allowance for the CO (Commercial Office) zone.

SRC 900.195 (Permanent Signs permitted in Commercial Office (CO) Zones)

- Amendments:
 - Added the FMU (Fairview Mixed Use) zone to this section.
 - Clarified signage allowance for residential uses, non-residential standalone uses, complexes, and individual uses within a complex.
 - Minor language changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.165.

SRC 900.200 (Permanent signs in Central Business District (CB), West Salem Central Business (WSCB), Retail Commercial (CR), and General Commercial (CG) Zones)

- Amendments:
 - Removed CR (Retail Commercial) and CG (General Commercial) zones from this section.
 - Added SWMU (South Waterfront Mixed-Use), MU-I and MU-II (Mixed-Use), ESMU (Edgewater/Second Street Mixed-Use Corridor) zones.
 - Clarified signage allowance for residential uses, non-residential standalone uses, complexes, and individual uses within a complex.
 - Created an allowance for buildings with frontage along a designated Parkway or Freeway to have one additional wall sign on the wall facing a Parkway or Freeway not exceeding a display area of 32 square feet.
 - Created an allowance for buildings that have frontage on a public alley to have an additional non-illuminated wall sign.
 - Reduction to the maximum height allowance for freestanding signs.
 - Reduction to the maximum display area allowance for wall signs and freestanding signs.
 - Updated standards for vehicle viewing signs.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.170.

SRC 900.205 (Permanent signs in the south waterfront mixed-use zone)

- Amendments:
 - Standards for signs in the SWMU (South Waterfront Mixed-Use) zone have been combined with the CB (Central Business District), WSCB (West Salem Central Business District), MU-I and MU-II (Mixed Use), and ESMU (Edgewater/Second Street Mixed-Use Corridor) zones in SRC 900.170.

SRC 900.210 (Permanent signs in Industrial Business Campus (IBC), Industrial Commercial (IC), Industrial Park (IP), General Industrial (IG), Intensive Industrial (II),

Employment Center (EC), and Second Street Craft Industrial Corridor (SCI) Zones)

- Amendments:
 - Added CR (Retail Commercial), CG (General Commercial), and MU-III (Mixed Use) zones.
 - Clarified signage allowance for residential uses, non-residential standalone uses, complexes, and individual uses within a complex.
 - Updated standards for vehicle viewing signs.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.175.

SRC 900.215 (Permanent signs in public zones)

- Amendments:
 - Expanded the allowance for freestanding signage in the PH (Public and Private Health Services) zone for sites with more than 300 feet and more than 1,000 feet of street frontage.
 - Created an allowance in the PH (Public and Private Health Services) zone for an unlimited number of illuminated emergency directional signs for development sites with emergency facilities provided the directional signs are setback a minimum of 150 feet from the nearest public street.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.180.

SIGNS IN OVERLAY ZONES; HISTORIC DISTRICTS; MARKET STREET INTERCHANGE

SRC 900.220 (Commercial/Rural Urban Development Overlay Zone)

- Amendments:
 - In 2013, the Commercial/Rural Urban Development Overlay Zone was split into four separate overlay zones; however, the sign code was not updated to reflect this change. Overlay zones within the former Commercial/Rural Urban Development Overlay Zone were renamed to the Superior-Rural, Oxford-West Nob Hill, Oxford-Hoyt, and Hoyt-McGilchrist overlay zones.
 - In 2023, the City Council voted to remove the Hoyt-McGilchrist Overlay Zone, Oxford-Hoyt Overlay Zone and Oxford-West Nob Hill Overlay Zone. The Superior-Rural Overlay Zone will remain, but many of the developments standards of the overlay zone were removed.
 - Staff proposes removal of this section.

SRC 900.225 (Saginaw Street Urban Development Overlay Zone)

- Amendments:
 - In 2023, the City Council voted to remove many of the development standards of the Saginaw Street Overlay Zone.
 - Staff proposed removal of this section.

SRC 900.230 (Chemawa/I-5. Northwest Quadrant Gateway Overlay Zone)

- Amendments:
 - Reduction in display area allowance for wall signs visible from Interstate-5 from 150 square feet or ten percent of the gross face area of the wall, to 100 square feet or ten percent of the gross face area of the wall.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.185.

SRC 900.245 (Portland/Fairgrounds Road Overlay Zone)

- Amendments:
 - Removed prohibition for trailer reader board signs and wall signs on sign towers. Trailer reader board signs are not defined in the existing or proposed sign code, so this prohibition was removed. Sign towers are proposed to be removed as a type of sign and are therefore removed from this section.
 - Reduced the height and display area allowance for freestanding signs on development sites with less than 100 feet of street frontage.
 - Clarified signage allowance for non-residential standalone uses, complexes, and individual uses within a complex.
 - ✤ Renumbered section to SRC 900.190.

SRC 900.265 (Willamette Greenway Overlay Zone)

- Amendments:
 - Minor changes to screening standards for support structures.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.195.

SRC 900.275 (Historic Districts)

- Amendments:
 - Minor language changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.200.

SRC 900.280 (Permanent signs for individual businesses in the Market Street Interchange)

- Amendments:
 - Updated uses and other minor language changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.205.

SRC 900.290 (Permanent signs in the Edgewater/Second Street Mixed-Use Corridor, Mixed Use-I and Mixed Use-II zones)

- Amendments:
 - Standards for signs in the Edgewater/Second Street Mixed-Use Corridor, Mixed Use-I and Mixed Use-II zones have been combined with the CB (Central Business District), WSCB (West Salem Central Business District), and the SWMU (South Waterfront Mixed-Use) zones in SRC 900.170.
 - Minor language changes.
 - Clarified signage allowance for non-residential standalone uses, complexes, and individual uses within a complex.

NONCONFORMING, UNSAFE, ABANDONED, PROHIBITED SIGNS

SRC 900.300 (Nonconforming signs)

- Amendments:
 - Clarified removal of unsafe, abandoned and prohibited signs.
 - Added allowance for nonconforming signs to be reconstructed/relocated if moved for construction of repair of public facilities, including sidewalks, roads, and public utilities as long as the degree of nonconformity does not increase.

- Added allowance for nonconforming outdoor advertising signs in the MU-III zone to be repaired and maintained, structurally altered or enlarged, and may be reconstructed, replaced, or relocated on the same development site.
- Minor language changes.
- Renumbered section to SRC 900.210.

SRC 900.305 (*Removal of nonconforming signs*), SRC 900.310 (*Removal of unsafe signs*), SRC 900.315 (*Removal of abandoned signs*), and SRC 900.325 (*Removal of prohibited signs or signs erected without a permit*)

- Amendments:
 - Consolidated these sections into one new section.
 - Minor language changes.
 - Renumbered sections to SRC 900.215.

SRC 900.330 (Procedure upon removal; cost of removal)

- Amendments:
 - Add provision that the Director is not required to store or provide notice for a sign that has no apparent value.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.220.

SRC 900.335 (Stop work orders; permit revocation; civil penalties; enforcement)

- Amendments:
 - No changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.225.

SRC 900.340 (Appeals)

- Amendments:
 - No changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.230.

SRC 900.345 (Constitutional issues involving application of sign code)

- Amendments:
 - No changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.235.

SRC 900.350 (Violations)

- Amendments:
 - No changes.
 - Renumbered section to SRC 900.240.