

# Title 19

## SIGN CODE

### Chapter 19.04

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

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#### 19.04.010 Title

This title shall be hereinafter known as the “Tukwila Sign Code”; it may be cited as such and will be hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.04.020 Purposes

The purposes of this code are:

1. To establish standards and guidelines for the design, erection and installation of signs and other visual communication devices so that the streets of Tukwila may appear orderly, and safety may be increased by minimizing clutter and distraction;
2. To provide sign options that encourage public agencies to communicate with members of the public;
3. To establish administrative procedures for the implementation of this code; and
4. To assure that the regulations of this code are not intended to permit any violation of the provisions of any other applicable federal, State or local regulation.

*(Ord. 2126 §1, 2006; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.04.030 Liability for Damages

Nothing in this code shall relieve any person, corporation, firm or entity from responsibility for damages to any other person suffering physical injury or damage to property as a result of the installation, display, maintenance or removal of any sign authorized under this code. The City and its employees and officials shall assume no liability for such injury or damage resulting from the authorization of any permit or inspection implementing the provisions of this code.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.04.040 Severability Clause

If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this code is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**Chapter 19.08**  
**DEFINITIONS**

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**19.08.010 Generally**

Special words used in this code shall be defined as set out in this chapter.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.08.020 Access Road**

“Access road” means a driveway, as defined in TMC 18.06.015.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.08.030 Animated Sign**

“Animated sign” means any sign or portion of which physically moves, appears to flash, undulate, pulse, or portray explosions, fireworks, flashes of light, or blinking or chasing lights, or which appears to move toward or away from the viewer, to expand or contract, bounce, rotate, spin, twist, scroll, travel or otherwise portrays movement or animation at a frequency more rapid than once every 24 hours. Signs or portions of signs displaying a changing message content that is strictly limited to time, date or temperature, or those permitted under TMC 19.32.300, shall not be construed to be animated. Scoreboards shall not be considered animated signs.

*(Ord. 2126 §2, 2006; Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005; Ord. 2019 §1, 2003; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.08.040 Area and Background Area**

“Area” and “background area” means the entire face of a sign or panel upon which copy or insignia may be placed. Where separate letters or shapes are used, the sign area shall be that encompassed by drawing lines at the extremities of the shapes to be used.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.08.050 Billboard**

“Billboard” means a sign or visual communication device, its structure and component parts, whose principal use is the advertising or promotion of a service or product normally available in the general market area but not for sale or rent on the immediate premises.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.08.052 Commercial Zones**

“Commercial Zones” means any area of the City zoned O, MUO, RCC, NCC, RC, RCM, TUC, C/LI and TVS.

*(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)*

**19.08.055 Electronic Sign**

“Electronic Sign” means a sign containing a display that can be changed, by electrical, electronic or computerized process.

*(Ord. 2019 §2, 2003)*

**19.08.060 Exposed Building Face**

“Exposed building face” means that portion of the building exterior wall or tenant space wall area of the building, together with one-half the vertical distance between eaves and ridge of a pitched roof above it, used for sign area calculation purposes as provided below:

1. That portion of the building wall fronting on the principal public street from which the building has access; or
2. That portion of the building wall which fronts on an access road; or
3. That portion of the building wall wherein the principal public entrance to an individual tenant space within a multi-tenant building is located.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.08.070 Freestanding Sign**

“*Freestanding sign*” means a sign installed on a permanent foundation, not attached to a building or other structure.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.080 Freeway Interchange Business**

“*Freeway interchange business*” means a business located within the areas designated on Exhibit A of this ordinance, situated within a radius of 1,000 feet from the freeway entry/exit point or industrial zone, but not separated by a physical barrier from the entry/exit intersection. The freeway interchange sign is primarily oriented to the passing motorist on the adjacent freeway, and shall identify businesses such as regional shopping malls, eating, lodging or service station facilities that serve the traveling public. No wall-mounted sign can be classified as a “freeway interchange business” sign.

(Ord. 1892 §1, 1999; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.090 Glare**

“*Glare*” means the creation of an intense relative brightness exceeding 250 foot-lamberts, which causes difficulty in the observation of the general area around the sign.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.100 Height**

“*Height*” means the distance measured from:

1. The lowest point of elevation of the ground between the top of the sign and a point five feet distant from said sign, or
2. The lowest point of elevation of the finished surface of the ground between the top of the sign and the property boundary, if it is less than five feet distant from said sign.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.105 Holographic Display**

“*Holographic display*” means any display that creates a three-dimensional image through projection.

(Ord. 2019 §3, 2003)

**19.08.110 Hotel**

“*Hotel*” means a building or portion thereof designed or used as a transient rental facility as defined in TMC 18.06.440.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.115 Industrial Zones**

“*Industrial Zones*” means any area of the City zoned LI, HI, MIC/L and MIC/H.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)

**19.08.120 Internal Information Sign**

“*Internal information sign*” means a sign which gives directional information or identifies specific use areas and which is necessary to maintain the orderly internal use of the premises, such as those signs which identify employee

parking, shipping, clearance or which restrict ingress and egress. Not included in this definition are signs which are not directly related to an identified need for orderly internal use of the property and off-premises or portable signs.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.125 Museums**

“*Museums*” means a non-profit institution where works of artistic, historical, and/or scientific value are cared for, kept and displayed.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)

**19.08.130 Off-Premises Sign**

“*Off-premises sign*” means any sign which is not on the same premises as the business with which it is identified, or which cannot be classified as an on-premises sign under TMC 19.08.140.

(Ord. 1857 §2, 1998; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.140 On-Premises Sign**

“*On-premises sign*” means a sign which displays advertising copy specifically related to a primary use of the premises on which it is located, including signs or sign devices indicating the business transacted at, services rendered, goods sold or produced on the immediate premises, name of the business, person, firm or corporation occupying the premises, including signs with adjustable copy known as readerboards. Said sign must be on the same premises as the business with which it is identified.

(Ord. 1857 §3, 1998; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.150 Permanent Sign**

“*Permanent sign*” means any sign which is erected without a restriction on the time period allowed for its display as specified in this code.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.160 Planned Shopping Center (Mall)**

“*Planned shopping center (mall)*” means a multiple-tenant retail development, as defined in TMC 18.06.750 (Shopping center, planned).

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.170 Portable Sign**

“*Portable sign*” means a sign which is not permanently affixed to a structure and is designed for or capable of movement, except those signs explicitly designed for people to carry on their persons or permanently affixed to motor vehicles operating in their normal course of business.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.172 Premises**

“*Premises*” means one or more contiguous lots of record (exclusive of any right-of-way), owned or managed by the same individual or entity.

(Ord. 1857 §1, 1998)

**19.08.175 Public Facility**

“Public facility” means any facility funded with public funds which provides a service to the general public, including but not limited to a public school, public library, community center, public park, government facility or similar use.

(Ord. 1617 §2, 1991)

**19.08.180 Real Estate Sign**

“Real estate sign” means a sign displayed for a limited time and offering the immediate premises for sale, rent or lease.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.190 Real Estate Directional Sign**

“Real estate directional sign” means an off-premises sign displayed for a limited time and offering a particular property for sale, rent or lease.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.192 Residential Zones**

“Residential Zones” means any area of the City zoned LDR, MDR or HDR.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)

**19.08.195 Scoreboard**

“Scoreboard” means a visual communication device used to display the time, score, period, quarters, innings, downs, yards to go, and any other information directly relevant to a sporting event.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)

**19.08.200 Shared Directional Sign**

“Shared directional sign” means a directional sign erected and maintained by several adjacent businesses as a single sign.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.210 Sign**

“Sign” means any medium, including paint of walls, merchandise, or visual communication device, its structure and component parts, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention to the subject matter for advertising or identification purposes. Bulletin boards and readerboards are considered signs.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.215 Special Permission Sign**

“Special Permission Sign” shall mean a sign requiring a Type 2 decision as set forth in TMC 19.22.010, 19.22.020, 19.32.020, 19.32.080, 19.32.140, 19.32.150 or 19.32.180.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005; Ord. 1770 §67, 1996)

**19.08.217 Sports Field**

“Sports Field” means an outdoor area solely dedicated to function as a place for competitive sporting events such as but not limited to football, soccer, baseball and softball.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)

**19.08.218 Sports Stadium**

“Sports Stadium” means a permanent structure or complex that either partially or completely encloses a sports field and provides fixed seating, permanent restroom facilities, and permanent concession stands.

(Ord. 2096 §1(part), 2005)

**19.08.220 Temporary Sign**

“Temporary sign” means a sign which is erected for a limited time and may be used to advertise business, community or civic projects, real estate for sale or lease, or other special events.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.230 Traffic Markings**

“Traffic markings” means all lines, patterns, words, colors or other devices except signs and power-operated traffic-control devices, set into the surface of, applied upon, or attached to the pavement or curbing or to objects within or adjacent to the roadway, placed for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.240 Traffic Sign**

“Traffic sign” means a device mounted on a fixed or portable support whereby a specific message is conveyed by means of words or symbols placed or erected for the purposes of regulating, warning or guiding traffic.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

**19.08.260 Unique Sign**

“Unique sign” means a building or other structure of unique design and exterior decor, where the entire structure may be considered an advertising device, including but not limited to shapes imitating hats, boots, tires, statues, parts of anatomy, or manufactured items such as airplanes, cars, boats, carriages, or symbols which may or may not contain lettering.

(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)

## Chapter 19.12

### PERMITS

#### Sections:

- 19.12.010 Required
- 19.12.020 Application Procedure
- 19.12.030 Application for Sign Permit - Contents
- 19.12.050 Exceptions - Permits Not Required
- 19.12.060 Criteria for Granting Variances
- 19.12.070 Fees - Permanent Signs
- 19.12.080 Fees - Temporary Signs
- 19.12.090 Fees - Work Started Prior to Permit Issuance
- 19.12.110 Maintenance and Removal of Signs
- 19.12.120 Special Permit Signs and Displays
- 19.12.130 Revocation

#### 19.12.010 Required

A. No sign, the message of which is discernible from the public right-of-way, adjacent properties, or adjacent businesses, shall hereafter be erected, re-erected, constructed or altered, except as provided by this code and a permit for the same has been issued by the City acting through its Planning Director, provided that a sign posted for purposes of giving public notice pursuant to TMC 18.104.110 shall be exempt from the requirements of this title.

B. A separate permit is required for each group of signs on a single support structure or the sign or signs for each business entity. In addition, electrical permits shall be obtained for electrified signs.

*(Ord. 2096 §2(part), 2005; Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

#### 19.12.020 Application Procedure

Application for a sign permit shall be made in writing upon forms furnished by the Department of Community Development. Sign permits other than special permission signs and unique signs shall be a Type 1 decision, provided that the denial of approval for a Type 1 sign permit shall be appealable to the Planning Commission pursuant to the provisions of TMC 18.108.020 for appeals of Type 2 decisions. Special permission signs shall be a Type 2 decision and shall be processed pursuant to the terms of TMC 18.108.040 and .050. Unique signs shall be a Type 3 decision and shall be processed pursuant to the terms of TMC 18.108.030. Such application shall contain the location of the proposed sign structure by street and number or by surveyor's exhibit or legal description, as well as the name and address of the sign contractor or erector.

*(Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

#### 19.12.030 Application for Sign Permit - Contents

When applying for a sign permit, a simple illustration showing how the proposed sign shall look on the site shall be submitted. A vicinity map at a scale of 1 inch representing 200 feet (or larger) shall be required, showing the property on which the proposed sign is

located, the street and nearest intersection, together with a site map at the scale of 1 inch representing 20 feet (or larger) showing the location of the sign, structures, right-of-way, easements and property lines. Elevation projections of the proposed sign shall also be submitted with the application and shall include, but not be limited to, the following: the sign's relationship to the property lines, easements, setback lines, supporting structure, colors and materials and method of illumination.

*(Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

#### 19.12.050 Exceptions - Permits Not Required

A. The following shall not require a permit (these exceptions shall not be construed as relieving the owner of any sign from the responsibility of its erection and maintenance and its compliance with the provisions of this code or any other law or ordinance regulating the same):

1. The changing of the advertising copy or message on a theater marquee, readerboard, billboard, and similar signs specifically designed for the use of replacement copy, or the changing of the advertising copy or message on an electronic sign, so long as the advertising copy or message is not changed at a frequency more rapid than once every 24 hours. A change in the advertising copy or message that occurs more rapidly than once every 24 hours will cause the sign to be considered to be an animated sign under TMC 19.08.030 and is prohibited under TMC 19.28.010(3).

2. Repainting of an existing sign when there is no other alteration.

3. Temporary signs and decorations customary for special holidays, such as Independence Day and Christmas, erected entirely on private property.

4. Real Estate Signs:

- a. Real estate signs 16 square feet or less in area offering the immediate premises for sale, lease or rent, except in LDR, MDR and HDR zones where the maximum sign area allowed is 6 square feet.

- b. Portable real estate directional signs (such as "A" boards), provided they are used only when the real estate company representative, agent or seller is in attendance at the property for sale.

- c. Rigid real estate directional signs, provided they are used to advertise a property that is currently for sale.

5. Signs not exceeding 4 square feet in area and advertising acceptance of credit cards, provided these are located on the face of a building or upon another larger sign background area for which a permit has been obtained.

6. One, on-premises sign not electrical or illuminated, 4 square feet in area or less, which is affixed permanently on a plane parallel to the wall that is located entirely on private property.

7. Traffic signs and/or markings, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic, whether on public or private property. Such signs and markings

shall comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, current edition, published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

8. Bulletin boards not over 12 square feet in area for each public, charitable or religious institution when the same is located on the premises of said institution.

9. Temporary signs denoting the architect, engineer or contractor, when placed upon work under construction and not exceeding 32 square feet in area.

10. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and dates of erection, when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other non-combustible material.

11. Signs of utilities indicating danger and service or safety information.

12. A maximum of four internal information signs as defined in TMC 19.08.120 and as regulated by TMC Section 19.22.

13. Political signs, posters, or bills shall not exceed 32 square feet in area (if single faced) or 64 square feet (if multi-faced); and, if located on private property, must have the consent of the property owner or the lawful occupant thereof. Each political sign shall be removed within 10 days following an election, except that the successful candidates of a primary election may keep their signs on display until 10 days after the general election, at which time they shall be promptly removed. Signs of a more general political nature (not related to an election) are not subject to time restrictions. It is unlawful for any person to paste, paint, affix or fasten onto the surface of any utility pole, bridge, sidewalk, or City-owned or operated vehicle, or any public facility of any kind any such sign, poster, bill or advertising device when such facilities are located on public property or within public easements.

14. Window signs which are of a temporary nature for commercial businesses and which occupy less than 25% of the window surface. Signs on or in the window which occupy more than 25% of the window surface are permanent and will be considered part of the overall signing permitted for the business. Such permanent window signs shall require permits.

15. Signs of community service and fraternal organizations, including notation of place and date of regular activity meetings.

16. Temporary signs displayed on City of Tukwila parks property. Said signage must be pre-approved by the Director of the Tukwila Parks Department prior to display.

B. The provisions of this section shall be narrowly construed so as to effectuate the purposes of this Title, as enumerated in TMC 19.04.020.

*(Ord. 2019 §5, 2003; Ord. 2004 §1, 2002; Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### **19.12.060 Criteria for Granting Variances**

A. Variance review shall be a Type 3 permit pursuant to 18.104.010. The Hearing Examiner may grant a variance to the requirements of this code only if the applicant demonstrates compliance with the following criteria:

1. That the variance as approved shall not constitute a grant of special privilege which is inconsistent with the intent of this sign code, nor which contravenes the limitation uses of property specified by the zoning classification in which this property is located.

2. That the variance is necessary because of special circumstances relating to the size, shape, topography, location or surroundings of the subject property to provide it with use rights and privileges permitted to other properties in the vicinity and in the zone in which the subject property is located.

3. That the granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the vicinity and in the zone in which the subject property is located.

4. That the special conditions and circumstances prompting the variance request do not result from the actions of the applicant.

5. That the variance as granted represents the least amount of deviation from prescribed regulations necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the variance is sought and which is consistent with the stated intent of this code.

6. That granting of the variance shall result in greater convenience to the public in identifying the business location for which a sign code variance is sought.

7. That the granting of the variance will not constitute a public nuisance or adversely affect the public safety.

B. The proposed variance shall not interfere with the location and identification of adjacent business buildings or activities.

*(Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### **19.12.070 Fees - Permanent Signs**

An application fee shall be paid at the time of application for a permit to erect or install a sign or device controlled by this code. The fee shall be per the Land Use Fee Schedule most recently adopted by the City Council. This fee does not include the costs of engineering checks nor of electrical or other inspections required by other appropriate agencies.

*(Ord. 2004 §2, 2002; Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### **19.12.080 Fees - Temporary Signs**

An application fee shall be paid at the time of application for a permit to erect or install temporary signs, banners, streamers, and other special permit signs as provided in TMC Chapter 19.24. The fee shall be per the Land Use Fee Schedule most recently adopted by the City Council.

*(Ord. 2004 §3, 2002; Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### 19.12.090 Fees - Work Started Prior to Permit Issuance

Where work for which a permit is required by this code is started prior to obtaining a permit, the fees specified in the Land Use Fee Schedule shall be doubled, but the payment of such double fee shall not relieve any person from fully complying with the requirements of this code in the execution of the work nor from any other penalties prescribed herein.

*(Ord. 2004 §4, 2002; Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### 19.12.110 Maintenance and Removal of Signs

A. All signs together with their supports, braces, guys and anchors shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation. The surfaces of all signs shall be kept neatly painted or posted at all times. The ground area shall be neat and orderly.

B. The Planning Director may order the removal or maintenance of any sign that is not maintained in a safe and orderly condition. The order for removal or maintenance of any sign shall be sent by the Planning Director to the person to whom the sign permit was granted, or the property owner if no authorized permit was granted, by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the action requested in the order is not taken within 30 days from the date of the notice, the Planning Director may direct the signs to be removed from the premises. The permittee or owner shall be charged an amount equal to the City cost for removal, but in no event shall the fee be less than \$50.00.

*(Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### 19.12.120 Special Permit Signs and Displays

Strings or pennants, banners and streamers, festoons of lights, clusters of flags, balloons, searchlights and similar devices of a carnival nature may be displayed on private property only, by special permit. Such permit shall be issued only for the grand opening of a new enterprise or the grand opening of an enterprise under new management. The period of the permit shall not exceed 7 days. Searchlight beams shall not flash against any building or sweep an arc greater than 45 degrees from vertical.

*(Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

### 19.12.130 Revocation

The Planning Director is authorized and empowered to revoke any permit upon failure of the holder thereof to comply with any provision of this code.

*(Ord. 1913 §1(part), 2000)*

## Chapter 19.16 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

### Sections:

#### I - DESIGN

- 19.16.010 Conformance to Building Code Required
- 19.16.020 Exposed Surfaces - Appearance
- 19.16.030 Glare Prevention Required
- 19.16.035 Illumination and Brightness Levels of Signs
- 19.16.040 Wall-Mounted Signs
- 19.16.050 Signs Near Intersections or Visible from Vehicles

#### II - CONSTRUCTION

- 19.16.060 Supports to Conform to Building Code
- 19.16.070 Materials
- 19.16.080 Electrical Wiring
- 19.16.090 Combustible Materials Displays
- 19.16.100 Anchorage

#### I - DESIGN

### 19.16.010 Conformance to Building Code Required

Signs and structures shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements for structures in the Uniform Building Code, TMC Chapter 16.04.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

### 19.16.020 Exposed Surfaces - Appearance

The exposed surfaces of all signs and sign supports shall present a neat and finished appearance, utilizing the minimum number of elements and exposed fastening devices.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

### 19.16.030 Glare Prevention Required

The signs shall be illuminated or detailed in such a way that glare is not created for occupants of surrounding properties or for drivers or pedestrians using adjacent streets and rights-of-way.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

### 19.16.035 Illumination and Brightness Levels of Signs

A. All signs shall have installed ambient light monitors, and shall at all times allow such monitors to automatically adjust the brightness level of the electronic sign based on ambient light conditions.

B. Maximum brightness levels for electronic signs shall not exceed 5,000 nits when measured from the sign's face at its maximum brightness, during daylight hours, and 500 nits when measured from the sign's face at its maximum brightness between dusk and dawn, i.e. the time of the day between sunrise and sunset.

C. For signs using incandescent lamps, such lamps shall be no more than 15 watts.

*(Ord. 2019 §4, 2003)*

**19.16.040 Wall-Mounted Signs**

No part of a wall-mounted sign shall extend above the top of the wall to which the signing is attached.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.16.050 Signs Near Intersection or Visible from Vehicles**

Where the sign is in the vicinity of an intersection, or where the sign is intended to be read from moving vehicles, the graphic devices and letter styles employed shall be clear and easy to read.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**II - CONSTRUCTION**

**19.16.060 Supports to Conform to Building Code**

Signs and structures shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements for structures in the Washington State Building Code and TMC Title 16.

*(Ord. 2096 §3(part), 2005; Ord.. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.16.070 Materials**

Materials of construction for signs and sign structures shall be the quality and grade as specified for buildings in the adopted edition of the Uniform Building Code. In all signs and sign structures the materials and details of construction shall, in the absence of specified requirements, conform with the following:

1. Structural steel shall be of such quality as to conform with the Uniform Building Code standards. Secondary members in contact with or directly supporting the display surface may be formed of light gauge steel, provided such members are designed in accordance with the specifications of the design of light gauge steel as specified in the Uniform Building Code standards and, in addition, ferrous metals shall be galvanized. Secondary members, when formed integrally with the display surface, shall not be less than No. 24 gauge in thickness. When not formed integrally with the display surface, the minimum thickness of the secondary members shall be No. 12 gauge. Steel members may be connected with one galvanized or equivalent bolt provided the connection is adequate to transfer the stresses in the members.

2. Anchors and supports, when of wood and embedded in the soil or within six inches of the soil, shall be of a durable species or shall be pressure-treated with an approved preservative. Such members shall be marked or branded by a recognized lumber grading or inspections agency.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.16.080 Electrical Wiring**

A. All signs containing electrical wiring shall be subject to the requirements of the National Electrical Code, current edition, and shall bear the seal of a recognized testing agency and/or be approved by the appropriate State agency.

B. Electrical service shall be located underground or otherwise concealed from view; meters and disconnects shall be integrated with the design or its support to conceal or blend with it.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.16.090 Combustible Materials Displays**

All combustible gas-burning displays, fossil-fueled or other liquefied or gassified combustible materials, used for advertising or illumination in connection with advertising displays, must meet all federal, State and municipal building and fire regulations and codes, and be certified by a nationally recognized testing organization such as the American Gas Association.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.16.100 Anchorage**

Members supporting unbraced signs shall be so proportioned that the bearing loads imposed on the soil in either direction, horizontal or vertical, shall not exceed the safe values. Braced ground signs shall be anchored to resist the specific wind or seismic load acting in any direction. Anchors and supports shall be designed for safe bearing loads on the soil and for an effective resistance to pull-out amounting to a force 25% greater than the required resistance to overturning. Anchors and supports shall penetrate to a depth below ground greater than that of the frost line. Signs attached to masonry, concrete or steel shall be safely and securely fastened thereto by means of metal anchors.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

## Chapter 19.22

### INTERNAL INFORMATIONAL SIGNS

4. All freestanding signs shall be located in a landscaped area or on a decorative base, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### Sections:

- 19.22.010 Permit Requirements - Conformance
- 19.22.020 Content Restricted
- 19.22.030 Wall-Mounted Signs - Restrictions
- 19.22.040 Freestanding Signs - Restrictions

#### 19.22.010 Permit Requirements - Conformance

A maximum of four internal informational signs, as defined in TMC 19.08.120, shall be exempt from the permit requirements of this code. However, all such signs must conform to the design and placement regulations contained in this chapter. Placement of five or more internal information signs of identical size and appearance shall require a permit approved by the Planning Commission and payment of a single fee as provided in TMC 19.12.070.

*(Ord. 2004 §5, 2002; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.22.020 Content Restricted

The information or copy displayed by or on any internal informational sign shall be limited to only those letters and/or symbols necessary to convey the required message, in as brief a manner as reasonably possible, and shall not advertise in any manner the facility occupying the premises nor goods or services available nor hours of operation. Upon application, the Planning Commission may authorize a sign which will resolve locational or traffic hazard problem. Such sign must comply with all the regulations established in TMC Chapter 19.22.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.22.030 Wall-Mounted Signs - Restrictions

Each wall-mounted sign shall be permanently affixed to a wall on a plane parallel to that wall and shall not exceed six square feet, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.22.040 Freestanding Signs - Restrictions

Each freestanding internal informational sign shall be erected in a permanent manner and shall be designed and located in accordance with the following restrictions:

1. Freestanding signs shall not exceed an overall height of five feet above average grade of adjacent street or driveway, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission.
2. The message conveyed by a freestanding sign may be located on a background area not to exceed four square feet. A double-face sign may not exceed eight square feet.
3. Freestanding signs which shall obscure vision between the height of three feet and ten feet of the street or driveway grade shall be set back at least 40 feet from the intersections of streets and/or driveways.

**Chapter 19.24**  
**TEMPORARY SIGNS**

**Sections:**

- 19.24.010 Area Restrictions - Time Limit
- 19.24.020 Cloth Signs - Support
- 19.24.030 Cloth Signs - Projection
- 19.24.040 Cloth Signs - Clearance
- 19.24.050 Real Estate Directional Signs
- 19.24.055 Museums
- 19.24.060 Sign Identification

**19.24.010 Area Restrictions - Time Limit**

A. Temporary signs may not exceed a total of 64 square feet in sign face area for all temporary signs being displayed. The number of on-premises temporary signs shall be limited to no more than two at any one time. Temporary signs may remain in place for a period not exceeding 30 days, except real estate signs which may be displayed as long as the property is for sale, or special permit signs as provided in TMC 19.12.120. Portable real estate directional signs (such as "A" boards) are permitted only when the real estate company representative or agent or seller is in attendance at the property for sale. Rigid real estate directional signs are permitted provided they are used to advertise a property that is currently for sale.

B. Temporary sign permits shall not be issued more frequently than once per calendar quarter per business. Temporary sign permits may be renewed for an identical period upon payment of an identical fee.

*(Ord. 1913 §2, 2000)*

**19.24.020 Cloth Signs - Support**

Every temporary cloth sign, when extended over a public right-of-way, shall be supported and attached with wire rope of 3/8-inch minimum diameter or other material of equivalent breaking strength. No strings, fiber ropes or wood slats shall be permitted for support or anchorage purposes. Cloth signs and panels shall be perforated over at least 10% of their area to reduce wind resistance.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.24.030 Cloth Signs - Projection**

Cloth signs may extend over public property. Such signs, when extended over a public right-of-way, shall maintain a minimum clearance of 20 feet. Temporary signs other than cloth, when eight feet or more above ground, may project not more than twelve inches over public property or beyond the legal setback line.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.24.040 Cloth Signs - Clearance**

Cloth signs may extend across a public right-of-way only by permission of the City Council, and shall be subject to all related laws and ordinances.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.24.050 Real Estate Directional Signs**

A. Real estate directional signs shall have a maximum size of six square feet. Such directional signs shall not be placed closer than four feet to the edge of the public right-of-way and shall not be placed in such a manner as to constitute a public safety hazard.

B. No more than two such signs shall be allowed at any one intersection. Only one sign per development shall be allowed at each intersection. Three signs (total) per development shall be allowed.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.24.055 Museums**

Museums shall be permitted to have two temporary banners not exceeding 6% of the wall area where the sign will be placed or 500 square feet, whichever is less. The temporary banner must be removed at the conclusion of the event it is advertising.

*(Ord. 2096 §4(part), 2005)*

**19.24.060 Sign Identification**

All temporary signs shall have the sign permit number placed at the upper left-hand corner by the permittee.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

## Chapter 19.28

### PROHIBITED SIGNS AND DEVICES

#### Sections:

- 19.28.010 Designated  
 19.28.020 Unauthorized Signs On or Over Public Right-of-Way - Removal

#### 19.28.010 Designated

The following signs or devices are specifically prohibited:

1. Signs adjacent to State roads and not complying with Washington State Department of Transportation regulations.
2. Signs using the words “stop,” “look” or “danger”, or any other word, symbol, character or color which might confuse traffic or detract from any legal traffic control device.
3. Animated signs as defined in TMC 19.08.030.
4. Rooftop signs supported by exposed trusswork and wall-mounted signs extending above the parapet line.
5. Unique signs unless specifically approved as a Type 4 decision; permits may be approved if in the judgment of the Planning Commission or, on appeal, the City Council, the effect of the proposed sign would not contribute to a cluttered, confusing or unsafe condition.
6. Permanent off-premises signs, except shared directional signs as provided in TMC 19.32.020, billboards as provided in TMC 19.32.040, freestanding signs for City of Tukwila or Tukwila School District buildings, facilities, parks or properties, public libraries, freestanding signs for cemeteries, public parks, historic sites, and planned shopping centers (mall) signs as provided in TMC 19.32.150. Any signs permitted under this section must meet all underlying height, setback or area requirements, except for those signs specifically provided for in other sections of this code, and must obtain a permit from the Department of Community Development.
7. Strings of pennants, banners or streamers, festoons of lights, clusters of flags, wind-animated objects, balloons and similar devices of a carnival nature except as specifically provided in TMC Chapters 19.12 and 19.24. Not prohibited are national, State, and institutional flags properly displayed or temporary signs and decorations customary for special holidays, such as Independence Day, Christmas, Tukwila Days, and similar events of a public nature.
8. Portable signs or any sign which is not permanently mounted, including sandwich or “A” boards, except as provided in TMC 19.24.050 and TMC 19.32.160.

9. There shall be no signs or sign supports which shall obscure vision between the height of 3 feet and 10 feet of the street or driveway grade allowed within 40 feet of the intersections of streets and/or driveways.

10. Signs mounted or painted on stationary motor vehicles, trailers and related devices in order to circumvent the intent of this code.

11. Off-premises signs located within the “shoreline zone” as described in Chapter 18.44; on-premises, permanent signs located within the shoreline zone and specifically oriented to be visible from the “river environment,” TMC 18.44.130.

12. Holographic displays.

*(Ord. 2019 §6, 2003; Ord. 1892 §3, 1999;  
 Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

#### 19.28.020 Unauthorized Signs On or Over Public Right-of-Way - Removal

Unauthorized signs or other advertising devices either wholly or partially supported on or projecting over the public right-of-way may be removed by the Planning Director without notice to the owner. Such signs or devices shall be held by the Planning Director for a period not to exceed 30 days, during which time the owner may redeem such sign or device by payment to the City of an amount equal to the City’s cost for the removal and storage, but in no event shall the fee be less than \$50.00. After expiration of the 30-day period, the sign not having been redeemed shall become the property of the City.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**Chapter 19.30**  
**STAGED COMPLIANCE SIGN**  
**AMORTIZATION PROGRAM**

**Sections:**

- 19.30.010 General
- 19.30.030 Definition and Removal of Non-Conforming Signs
- 19.30.080 Remedies - Abatement
- 19.30.090 Maintenance and Repair

**19.30.010 General**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish limits on the continuation of and requirements for the removal of nonconforming signs. Subject to the remaining restrictions of this chapter, nonconforming signs that were otherwise lawful on the effective date of this Code or lawful at the time of their installation may be continued until their removal is required.

*(Ord. 2004 §8, 2002; Ord. 1857 §6(part), 1998)*

**19.30.030 Definition and Removal of Non-Conforming Signs**

A. All signs that do not conform to the specific standards of this Code may be considered legally nonconforming if the sign was erected in conformance with a valid permit and complied with all applicable laws at the time of the sign's installation.

B. Application for and issuance of a sign permit that complies with this Code is required:

1. For relocation, re-erection, alteration, replacement or change in any way to a legal nonconforming sign - the structure or sign panel/face/copy; or

2. Repair of a legal nonconforming sign that suffers more than 50% damage or deterioration, which is based upon an appraisal.

3. Any legally nonconforming wall sign that exists as of January 1, 1999 and that exceeds sign code standards as to sign area by 15% or less shall be deemed to be conforming. Any legally nonconforming freestanding sign that exists as of January 1, 1999 and that exceeds sign code standards as to sign area, height and location by 15% or less shall be deemed to be conforming.

C. Modifications not requiring a permit are provided in the section "Exceptions - Permits not required." (TMC 19.12.050.A.1 and 19.12.050.A.2) and shall not be considered alteration of a non-conforming sign.

*(Ord. 2004 §11, 2002; Ord. 1982 §1, 2001; Ord. 1857 §6(part), 1998)*

**19.30.080 Remedies - Abatement**

The remedies provided herein for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, whether civil or criminal, shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other remedies provided by law including legal or equitable relief to enjoin and/or abate a violation of this chapter. The costs incurred by the City in abating a violation of this chapter, including reasonable attorneys' fees, shall be borne by the party responsible for maintaining the violation.

*(Ord. 1857 §6(part), 1998)*

**19.30.090 Maintenance and Repair**

Nothing in this chapter shall relieve the owner or user of a non-conforming sign from the provisions of this code regarding safety, maintenance and repair of signage. However, a permit issued in conformance with this Code is required if repairs are needed for a nonconforming sign that has suffered more than 50% damage or deterioration, which is based upon an appraisal.

*(Ord. 2004 §17, 2002; Ord. 1857 §6(part), 1998)*

**Chapter 19.32**  
**REGULATIONS BASED ON**  
**LAND USE CATEGORIES**

**Sections:****I - GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- 19.32.010 Generally
- 19.32.020 Shared Directional Signs
- 19.32.030 Signs in Underground Utility Easements and Corridors
- 19.32.040 Billboards - Area Restrictions
- 19.32.050 Exposed Neon Tubing - Use Restricted
- 19.32.060 Freestanding Signs - Proximity to Certain Zones
- 19.32.070 Freestanding Signs - Setback

**II - RESIDENTIAL ZONES**

- 19.32.080 Home Occupation - Church, Approved Conditional Use and Public Facility Signs

**III - COMMERCIAL ZONES**

- 19.32.140 Signs Located Outside of Residential Zones, Except as Provided in TMC 19.32.150 through TMC 19.32.190, Inclusive

**IV - PLANNED SHOPPING CENTERS (MALL)**

- 19.32.150 Building Identification Signs - Displays
- 19.32.155 Identification Signs for the Center as a Whole

**V - SERVICE STATIONS**

- 19.32.160 Surrounded by Commercial or Industrial Zones

**VI - INDUSTRIAL ZONES**

- 19.32.170 Permitted Signs - Height

**VII - FREEWAY INTERCHANGE BUSINESSES**

- 19.32.180 Permitted Signs - Height and Area Allowance

**VIII - HOTELS**

- 19.32.190 Signs Mounted on Hotel Building Faces

**IX - VIDEO DISPLAYS**

- 19.32.200 Video Displays at Sports Stadiums

**X – PUBLIC FACILITIES**

- 19.32.300 Electronic Message Boards

**I - GENERAL REGULATIONS****19.32.010 Generally**

The type, character, number, location and size of permanent signs varies with the land use category in which the signs are located. The land use categories are as established under Title 18 of this code.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.020 Shared Directional Signs**

In commercial and industrial areas where a demonstrated need for directional signing exists, owners or tenants of these premises may apply for review and approval of the design of a shared directional sign. Such application shall be processed as a Type 2 decision. Such sign shall not exceed ten feet in height, ten feet in width, and have a maximum of two signing surfaces which do not exceed a total of 50 square feet. Such sign shall be located on the premises of at least one of the entities identified thereon and shall be used only by geographically associated businesses. The sign structure shall be located in a masonry base of decorative appearance. The shared directional sign shall contain no promotional copy but shall be limited to the names and addresses of the companies or activities being identified.

*(Ord. 1770 §73, 1996; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.030 Signs in Underground Utility Easements and Corridors**

Where underground utility easements or corridors have been established, no signs shall be located in the corridor or easement except as specified in TMC 19.20.020C.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.040 Billboards - Area Restrictions**

Billboards shall not exceed 300 square feet in area. All billboard structures shall be of "single-post" construction and shall be set back a minimum of 15 feet from the edge of the public right-of-way; a greater setback may be required by the Public Works Director to preserve adequate traffic safety sight distance. Billboards shall not be spaced less than 500 lineal feet apart. In addition, billboards shall be located only on the following street corridors and only within those portions thereof depicted on Exhibit B of this code: West Valley Highway (SR 181) south of S. 180th St. and Interurban Avenue north of the Interstates interchange.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.050 Exposed Neon Tubing - Use Restricted**

No exposed neon tubing shall be used where sign face is within 200 feet of a multiple-family or single-family zone.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.060 Freestanding Signs - Proximity to Certain Zones**

No freestanding sign shall be located within 100 feet of a multiple-family or single-family zone, except as provided in TMC 19.32.080.

*(Ord. 2096 §5(part), 2005; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.070 Freestanding Signs - Setback**

Any freestanding sign shall be set back from all property lines a distance at least equal to the overall height of the sign, except for public facility signs as specified in TMC 19.32.080, and for signs allowed under the "freeway interchange businesses" sign provisions in TMC 19.32.180. Freeway interchange business signs may be located on the property in a location that does not conflict with on-site vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Freeway interchange business signs may be located within the area designated as the minimum setback requirement in its zoning classification.

*(Ord. 2096 §5(part), 2005; Ord. 1892 § 4, 1999;  
Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**II - RESIDENTIAL ZONES**

**19.32.080 Home Occupation - Church, Approved Conditional Use and Public Facility Signs**

A. Home occupations may be identified by a single, non-illuminated wall plaque of not more than 1-1/2 square feet.

B. A church, conditional use, or public facility shall be permitted at least one wall sign and one freestanding sign or two wall signs. No wall may have more than one wall sign. One additional sign shall be allowed for each additional street frontage. Total area of the sign or signs for the use shall not exceed 50 square feet per sign; maximum height above ground, when in the setback area, shall not exceed 16 feet; minimum setback shall be eight feet; and the base of the sign shall be located in a landscaped area. Bulletin boards and readerboards are considered signs. Illuminated signs shall use indirect, concealed sources, or backlighted letters on an opaque background.

C. Each multiple-family development may have one sign for the purpose of naming or otherwise identifying the project. Total area of the sign faces shall not exceed 32 square feet; maximum height above average grade, when in setback area, shall not exceed five feet; and base of the sign shall be located in landscaped area. Illuminated signs shall be front-lighted from concealed sources or back-lighted channel letters or back-lighted cut-out letters framed by an opaque cabinet or non-illuminated opaque sign panels.

*(Ord. 2096 §5(part), 2005; Ord. 1770 §74, 1996;  
Ord. 1617 §3(part), 1991; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

III – COMMERCIAL ZONES

**19.32.140 Signs Located Outside of Residential Zones, Except as Provided in Section 19.32.150 through Section 19.32.190, Inclusive**

A. Signs mounted on exposed building faces: Each business shall be permitted one exposed building face-mounted sign. One additional exposed building face-mounted sign can be permitted for each business that is not identified on any freestanding sign, provided:

1. That the business has more than one exterior public entrance in the same building, exclusive of warehouse area doors, or
2. That there is no more than one sign per business on any exposed building face.

B. The area of all signs on an exposed building face for each business shall be as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**

Area (L X H) - Sq. Ft. Exposed Building Face	Total Permitted Area of the Sign - Square Feet
0-500	0.05 x exposed building face in sq. ft. (E.B.F.)
501-1,500	25 + 0.04 x (E.B.F. - 500)
1,501-3,000	65 + 0.03 x (E.B.F. - 1,500)
3,001-5,000	110 + 0.02 x (E.B.F. - 3,000)
Over 5000	150 square feet (maximum)

Upon application to and approval as a Type 2 decision, the permitted sign areas provided in Table 1 may be increased no more than 50% for each doubling of the required minimum setback distance for the wall upon which a particular sign is to be placed, but in no case shall sign area exceed that permitted in TMC 19.32.150.

C. Office buildings with multiple tenancies shall be permitted signs as follows:

1. The total allowed signage area for any exposed building face shall be equal to the area given in Table 1.
2. Freestanding signs will be allowed as provided in TMC 19.32.140E.
3. Each business is permitted a maximum of two signs with not more than one sign for any particular business allowed on any one exposed building face. If the business is listed on a freestanding sign it will only be allowed one wall sign.
4. No one sign shall contain more than 50% of the allowable sign area, unless approved as a Type 2 decision.
5. Applicants for sign permits will be required to document the area of the exposed building face on which the sign is to be placed, total allowed sign area for that face, area of any existing signs, and area of the proposed sign.
6. Each tenant may also display a room number/letter or street number which is visible from the public street or principle access roadway. Such a sign shall not be counted in the sign area permitted for the business.
7. Each group of professional offices may have a directory listing the names of the tenants on the site and a

location map. The directory shall be oriented to the pedestrian on the site rather than the passing motorist.

D. Office building exception: Multi-tenant office buildings which will face or abut other commercial or industrial zones and which have no common public entry shall be permitted signs as follows:

1. Wall signs shall be allowed as provided in TMC 19.32.140A.
2. Freestanding signs will be allowed as provided in TMC 19.32.140E.
3. Each tenant may also display a room number/letter or street number which is visible from the public street or principle access roadway. Such a sign shall not be counted in the sign area permitted for the business.
4. Each group of professional offices may have a directory listing the names of the tenants on the site and a location map. The directory shall be oriented to the pedestrian on the site rather than the passing motorist.

E. Freestanding signs:

1. One freestanding sign shall be permitted for each site. One additional free-standing sign may be permitted for sites that meet the following conditions:
  - a. The site has at least 400 linear feet of frontage on a public street;
  - b. The site has at least two detached commercial occupied buildings, neither of which is accessory to the other; and
  - c. The site is occupied by at least two tenants. Permitted sign area for each freestanding sign shall be as follows:

Street Frontage	Sign Area/Sign
Up to 200 ft.	50 sq. ft. with a total of 100 sq. ft. for all sides
200 to 400 ft.	75 sq. ft. with a total of 150 sq. ft. for all sides
Over 400 ft.	100 sq. ft. with a total of 200 sq. ft. for all sides

2. A second freestanding sign may also be permitted if that sign is determined to be a freeway interchange business sign and has received or is eligible for a permit as such a sign.

3. Any permitted freestanding sign shall be limited in height to 35 feet, except signs determined to be a "freeway interchange business" sign, provided that no freestanding sign shall be higher than the building which it identifies or except as provided in TMC 19.32.150, 19.32.170 and 19.32.180.

F. The freestanding sign shall contain no promotional copy but shall be limited to the name of the company or activity being identified and trademark or logo, except where an approved readerboard is used.

G. Non-rolling equipment must be displayed from within buildings or glass fronted cases, except in connection with temporary commercial, industrial or public service displays.

*(Ord. 2096 §5, 2005; Ord. 1892 §5, 1999; Ord. 1773 §1, 1996; Ord. 1770 §78, 1996; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**IV - PLANNED SHOPPING CENTERS (MALL)**

**19.32.150 Building Identification Signs - Displays**

A. Individual businesses in a planned shopping center (mall) shall be limited to wall mounted signs. The total allowed signage for any building face shall be equal to 6% of the exposed building face area on which the signs are to be placed, up to a maximum of 500 square feet. Each business is permitted a maximum of four signs with not more than one sign for any particular business allowed on any one exposed building face. No one sign shall contain more than 50% of the allowable sign area, unless approved as a Type 2 decision. Applicants for sign permits will be required to document the area of the exposed building face on which the sign is to be placed, total allowed sign area for that face, area of any existing signs, and area of the proposed sign.

B. Businesses located on the perimeter of a planned shopping center (mall) in detached, separate buildings shall be allowed freestanding signs per TMC 19.32.140C.

*(Ord. 1773 §2, 1996; Ord. 1770 §79, 1996; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**19.32.155 Identification Signs for the Center as a Whole**

Identification signs for the center as a whole shall have an aggregate area of not more than 300 square feet per street which abuts the development, and no one sign shall contain more than 50% of the allowable sign area, unless approved as a Type 2 decision. The height of a freestanding sign shall not exceed the highest portion of any building in the planned shopping center (mall) which is identified thereby. Non-rolling equipment and merchandise must be displayed from within buildings or glass-fronted cases, except in connection with a temporary commercial, industrial or public service display.

*(Ord. 1773 §3, 1996)*

**V - SERVICE STATIONS**

**19.32.160 Surrounded by Commercial or Industrial Zones**

Where service stations are located across the street from or abut commercial or industrial zones, the following requirements are applicable:

1. One freestanding, lighted, double-faced identification sign not exceeding 150 square feet for the total of all faces with no one face exceeding 75 square feet is permitted. Such sign shall not exceed a height of 35 feet. The sign shall be lighted only during business hours.

2. One sign mounted on an exposed building face is permitted for each street frontage and shall not exceed 20% of the exposed building face area to which it is attached. Such face-mounted signs may be illuminated.

3. Two unlighted double-faced signs not exceeding 20 square feet per face are permitted. Such signs shall be non-portable and may be used for advertising copy customarily displayed in service stations.

4. In addition to the above regulations, the following signs are allowed without permit:

a. Signs at each pump island denoting the type of fuel, price and service available, providing such signs are permanently mounted to pumps or pump island structures.

b. Signs on roll-away type racks advertising merchandise in such racks. Examples include tire racks, batteries, bulk oil sales, etc. Such signs are limited to two square feet.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**VI - INDUSTRIAL ZONES****19.32.170 Permitted Signs - Height**

Signs shall be as described under TMC 19.32.140, except that height of a freestanding sign permitted for the first ten acres is 45 feet.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**VII - FREEWAY INTERCHANGE BUSINESSES****19.32.180 Permitted Signs - Height and Area Allowance**

The maximum allowed message area for a freeway interchange business sign is 125 square feet per face or a total of 250 square feet for all faces of the sign. The minimum height allowed for a freeway interchange business sign shall be 35 feet and the maximum height shall be 125 feet. The minimum and maximum height for a freeway interchange sign includes any and all message areas attributable to the business the sign advertises. No portion of the message area, including logos, text or other advertisements, for the freeway interchange sign may be located below 35 feet on the freeway interchange business sign. *(See Figures 1–8)*

*(Ord. 1892 §6, 1999; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**VIII - HOTELS****19.32.190 Signs Mounted on Hotel Building Faces**

A. Each hotel shall be permitted one building face-mounted sign on each building face of the hotel, which sign shall contain only the hotel name and/or logo. The area of each building face-mounted sign shall be as provided in Table 1 of TMC 19.32.140A. A hotel may not have more than four building face-mounted signs, except as provided in TMC 19.32.190B. For the purpose of this subsection, “building face” shall be defined as provided in TMC 19.08.060, without the limiting requirements of subsections 1, 2 and 3 thereof.

B. If a hotel has a restaurant operation which is located in the hotel building, then the hotel shall be permitted one additional exposed building face-mounted sign within the area as provided in Table 1 of TMC 19.32.140A; provided, that the sign is placed on the ground floor of the exposed building face and identifies only the restaurant name.

C. A hotel shall be permitted freestanding and internal information signs as provided in TMC 19.32.140D and TMC Chapter 19.22, respectively.

*(Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*

**IX – VIDEO DISPLAYS****19.32.200 Video Displays at Sports Stadiums**

Scoreboards as permitted by TMC 19.12.050 (17) are permitted to have a video display, provided they meet the following requirements:

1. The scoreboard and the video display must be a single integrated structure.

2. Video displays are only permitted at sports stadiums that have a seating capacity of at least 2,000 persons or greater. Such stadiums must be located in the LDR zone and have a Public Recreation Overlay.

3. Only one scoreboard with video display is permitted per field.

4. The video display may only be used between the hours of 8:00AM and 11:00PM.

5. The entire scoreboard with video display cannot exceed 200 square feet.

6. The scoreboard with video display must face away from the public rights-of-way, public trails, adjacent properties, and water bodies. The video display must have minimal visibility from adjacent properties, public rights-of-way, and public trails. The video display cannot have a negative impact on the quiet enjoyment of surrounding residential properties, as determined by the Director of the Department of Community Development.

7. The scoreboard with video display must meet the setback requirements of TMC 19.32.070.

8. Such video display must meet the illumination and brightness limitations for electronic signs set forth in TMC 19.32.035.

9. The sign must meet the height standards of TMC 19.32.140E.3.

10. Such scoreboards with video display shall be permitted as a Type II decision. The following information must be submitted for approval of the Type II decision:

a. An application form provided by the City of Tukwila;

b. A written narrative regarding compliance with the requirements in TMC 19.32.080;

c. A site map drawn to scale with north arrow, showing the location of the proposed sign, property lines, and adjacent public rights-of-way;

d. Elevations of the proposed sign drawn to an appropriate scale;

e. Appropriate engineering documents, if the sign requires structural engineering.

*(Ord. 2096 §5(part), 2005)*

**X – PUBLIC FACILITIES**

**Chapter 19.36**

**PENALTIES**

**19.32.300 Electronic Message Boards**

A. Signs located at public facilities that meet the criteria of TMC 19.32.300 may use the sign as a changing message sign, provided that the following criteria are also met:

1. The image on the sign may not change more frequently than once every ten seconds.

2. The image must appear and disappear as one image. The image may not appear to flash, undulate, pulse, or portray explosions, fireworks, flashes of light, or blinking or chasing lights, or appear to move toward or away from the viewer, to expand or contract, bounce, rotate, spin, twist, scroll, travel, or otherwise portray movement.

3. If the public facility is located within a residential zone, the use of the electronic portion of the sign is limited to the hours of 7:00AM to 10:00PM.

B. Notice of understanding: Any public facility that installs and operates a changing message sign must submit a letter to the Director of the Department of Community Development, signed by the appropriate manager/administrator, which notes understanding of the above requirements and an assurance that the sign will be used in the appropriate manner as stated in TMC 19.32.300A)(1-3).

C. Order of Removal: The Director of Community Development shall order the removal of any sign constructed pursuant to TMC 19.32.300 if the sign is used in such a way that violates the provisions of this chapter.

D. The language codified in TMC 19.32.300 shall sunset exactly one year from the effective date of the ordinance that adopted the code language. Any public facility that installs and operates a changing message sign must continue to comply with TMC 19.32.300 A.1–A.3) for the life of the sign, and will be considered a non-conforming sign and subject to the limitations in TMC 19.30.

*(Ord. 2126 §3, 2006)*

**Sections:**

19.36.010 Penalty for violations

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**19.36.010 Penalty for Violations**

Any violation of any provision, or failure to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter, shall be subject to the terms and conditions of Chapter 8.45 (“Enforcement”).

*(Ord. 1838 §17, 1998; Ord. 1274 §1(part), 1982)*