

ARE “TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES” ON PRIVATE PROPERTY REQUIRED TO MEET STATE STANDARDS?

State law requires traffic control devices, including those signs and pavement markings on private property where the public is invited, to meet State standards adopted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Florida Statutes, Section 316.0747 state: “It is unlawful for any non-governmental entity to use any traffic control device at any place where the general public is invited, unless such device conforms to the uniform system of traffic control devices adopted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to this Chapter.”

The “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (MUTCD) published by the U.S. Department of Transportation is the national standard for Traffic Control Devices. The Florida Department of Transportation has adopted the MUTCD as the State standard by Rule 14-15.10. The entire MUTCD can be found on the web at: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>

The “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (MUTCD) may be purchased from the Institute of Transportation Engineers(ITE), 1099 14th St., N.W., Suite 300 West, Washington D.C. 20005-3438. Phone: (202) 289-0222, Fax (202) 289-7722

The ITE Home page web site is at: <http://www.ite.org>

The ITE Bookstore is at: <http://www.ite.org/bookstore/index.asp>

The MUTCD states that:

Parking space striping must be white.

Lane Lines between traffic lanes in the same direction must be white.

Centerlines between traffic in opposing directions must be yellow.

Arrows on the pavement must be white.

Crosswalks and Crosswalk lines must be white.

Stop Lines (Stop Bars) must be white.

Street Name Signs should have 6 inch high lettering and should be retroreflective.

Sign Height Standard:

The MUTCD states: “Signs installed at the side of the road in rural districts shall be at least 5 feet, measured from the bottom of the sign to the near edge of the pavement. Where parking or pedestrian movements occur, the clearance to the bottom of the sign shall be at least 7 feet. Directional signs on expressways and freeways shall be installed with a minimum height of 7 feet. If a secondary sign is mounted below another sign, the major sign shall be installed at least 8 feet and the secondary sign at least 5 feet above the level of the pavement edge. All route signs, warning signs, and regulatory signs on expressways and freeways shall be at least 7 feet above the level of the pavement edge.”

Lateral Offset Standard:

Another concern of citizens is the lateral placement of STOP signs from the roadway. The MUTCD states: “The minimum lateral offset from the edge of the shoulder (or if no shoulder exists, from the edge of the pavement) to the near edge of a roadside-mounted sign shall be 6 feet. Roadside-mounted sign supports shall be breakaway, yielding, or shielded with a longitudinal barrier or crash cushion if within the clear zone. The minimum lateral offset from the edge of the shoulder (or if no shoulder exists, from the edge of the pavement) to the near edge of overhead sign supports (cantilever or sign bridges) shall be 6 feet. Overhead sign supports shall have a barrier or crash cushion to shield them if they are within the clear zone.”