

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-4 **Effective:** August 18, 2026

Subject: Reflective Sheeting for Rigid Highway Signs

References: None

Purpose: To provide direction for the use of Reflective Sheeting Types for various categories of Rigid Flat Sheet Signs

Primary Department: Traffic Engineering

Use reflective sheeting that meets the requirements of ASTM D4956. Obtain sheeting from manufacturers prequalified in accordance with South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Qualified Product Policy 20 and who appear on the current edition of SCDOT Qualified Products List 20.

A minimum of Type III reflective sheeting (beaded or micro prismatic) is to be used on all highway signs except the following:

- a. All orange background rigid signs are to be Type VIII, Type IX, or Type XI micro prismatic fluorescent orange sheeting including stop/slow paddles.
- b. The following school, pedestrian and bicycle warning signs are to be Type XI micro prismatic yellow-green fluorescent sheeting:
 - 1) School Crossing (S1-1),
 - 2) School Children Walking (S2-3),
 - 3) School Bus Stop Ahead (S3-1),
 - 4) School Bus Entering Highway (S3-8),
 - 5) Diagonal Arrow (W16-7P)*,
 - 6) Ahead (W16-9P)*,
 - 7) XXX Feet (W16-2P OR W16-2aP)*,
 - 8) School (S4-3P),
 - 9) School Speed Limit XX When Flashing (S5-1) (top portion only),
 - 10) Overhead School Speed Limit (S5-6) (top portion only),
 - 11) Pedestrian Crossing (W11-2),
 - 12) Deaf Child (W11-2.1P-24),
 - 13) Blind Child (W11-2.2P-24),
 - 14) Bicycle Crossing (W11-1),
 - 15) Share The Road Signs (R9-20a-24) (top portion only),
 - 16) Handicapped (W11-9),
 - 17) Playground (W15-1),
 - 18) Student Loading Zone Alternate Merge (S20-1) (top portion only),
 - 19) Advisory Speed Plaque (W13-1P)*,

- 20) Pedestrians In Crosswalk When Flashing (OHW11-2.5-72),
- 21) In-Street and Overhead Pedestrian and Trail Crossing Signs (R1-6 and R1-9 Series),
- 22) Bicycle / Pedestrian (W11-15),
- 23) Trail Crossing (W11-15a), and
- 24) Trail Crossing Plaque (W11-15P).

*Use fluorescent yellow-green only when used with school, pedestrian, or bicycle signs.

c. The following signs are to be Type XI micro prismatic fluorescent yellow sheeting:

- 1) All Warning Series Signs (W-Series)
- 2) Object Markers (OM1, OM2, and OM3 Series) having yellow backgrounds.
- 3) Any Regulatory Series signs with a portion of the sign having a yellow background.
- 4) Any Information Series signs with a portion of the sign having a yellow background.

d. All overhead signs are to be Type XI micro prismatic sheeting.

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Approved by: Rob Perry, P.E.
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History: Issued on November 21, 2003
First Revision on May 27, 2005
Second Revision on June 4, 2008
Third Revision on July 15, 2008
Fourth Revision on January 20, 2009
Fifth Revision on May 11, 2011
Sixth Revision on April 14, 2015
Seventh Revision on August 18, 2026