

Chapter 46

SIGNS*

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***Cross references**—Buildings and building regulations, ch. 10; signs for rummage sales, § 42-35; streets, sidewalks and other public places, ch. 50; placement of signs in streets or on sidewalks, § 50-11; zoning, ch. 66.

COLOMA CODE

Article V. Requirements for Signs in Residential Areas

Sec. 46-156. Signs in residential areas.

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 46-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Accessory use means a use incidental to the principal use of the building.

Billboard means any display sign which contains a message unrelated to or not advertising a business transacted, or goods sold or produced, on the premises on which the sign is located.

Construction sign means a ground or wall sign erected on a site designated on a building permit issued by the building inspector as the site for construction of a new building which advises the public of pertinent facts regarding the construction, management and leasing of the new building.

Decorative display means a temporary display designated for the entertainment or cultural enrichment of the public and having no direct or indirect sales or advertising content.

Display sign means a structure or device that is arranged, intended, designed or used as an advertisement, announcement or direction.

Erect means to build, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend or affix a sign.

Ground sign means a sign erected on a freestanding frame, mast or pole and not attached to any building.

Incombustible material means any material which will not ignite at or below a temperature of 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, and will not continue to burn or glow at that temperature.

Marquee sign means a display sign attached to or hung from a marquee, canopy or other structure projecting from and supported by the building, and extending beyond the building wall, building line or street lot line.

Political sign means a sign announcing the candidacy of a person running for public office or issues to be voted upon at an election.

Portable sign means any sign on wheels, including vehicles.

Projecting sign means a display sign which is affixed to any building or structure other than a marquee, and any part of which extends beyond the building wall, and the horizontal sign surface is not parallel to the building wall.

Public service information sign means any sign intended primarily to promote items of general interest to the community, such as time, temperature and date, atmospheric conditions, traffic control, etc.

Roof sign means a display sign which is erected, constructed and maintained above any portion of the roof or exterior wall of a building or structure, or which is attached to any exterior wall at a height in excess of three feet above the horizontal plane of the roof abutting such wall.

Shopping center means a group of three or more stores, offices or shops selling merchandise or services and served by a common off-street automobile parking area which is located on private property. All stores, offices or shops served by one parking area shall be considered one shopping center.

Sign means any announcement, declaration, display, illustration and insignia when designed and placed so as to attract general public attention. Such sign shall be deemed to be a single sign whenever the proximity, design, content or continuity reasonably suggests a single unit, notwithstanding any physical separation between parts. The term "sign" shall include any banner, bulbs or other lighting devices, streamer, pennant, balloon, propeller, flag (other than the official flag of any nation or state) and any similar device of any type or kind whether or not bearing lettering.

Structural trim means the molding, battens, cappings, nailing strips, latticing and platforms which are attached to the sign structure.

Surface means that part of the sign upon, against or through which the message is displayed or illustrated. The total surface area of a sign is the total of all exterior surfaces of the sign computed in square feet. In the case of a broken sign (a sign with open spaces between the letters) the total surface area shall be measured by multiplying the height of the individual letters or combination of letters by the distance between the outer edges of the two furthestmost letters.

Temporary sign means a display sign, banner or other advertising device constructed of cloth, canvas, fabric, plastic or other light temporary material, with or without a structural frame, or any other sign, intended for a limited period of display, but not including decorative displays for holidays or public demonstrations.

Trailer sign means any sign equipped for trailer traveling.

Wall sign means a display sign which is attached directly to a building wall or structure and the horizontal sign surface is parallel to the building wall or structure.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-1)

Cross reference—Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 46-2. Variances.

The city planning commission shall have the power to vary or modify the application of any provision of this chapter when, in its opinion, the enforcement thereof would do manifest injustice and would be contrary to the spirit and purpose of this chapter or the public interest, or when in its opinion the interpretation of the enforcing official should be modified or reversed. A decision of the city planning commission to vary the application or any provision of this chapter, or to modify the interpretation of the enforcing official, shall specify in what manner such variation or modification is made, the conditions upon which it is made and the reasons therefor.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-9)

Sec. 46-3. Appeals.

Prior to the denial of a permit, the building inspector shall submit to the city planning commission any application which does not meet the approval of the building inspector. Appeals from any ruling of the building inspector or the city planning commission shall be made to the zoning board of appeals as described and provided for in chapter 66.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-10)

Sec. 46-4. Nonconforming signs.

Existing signs which do not comply with the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed nonconforming signs. Nonconforming signs may be maintained or repaired but shall not be enlarged, rebuilt, altered or remodeled unless:

- (1) They will become conforming by virtue of such enlargement, rebuilding, alteration or remodeling; and
- (2) A permit to do so is obtained from the building inspector.

All nonconforming signs shall either be removed or made to conform with this chapter by one year from the date this chapter is adopted.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-11)

Sec. 46-5. Sign erector's bond.

No person shall engage in the business of erecting signs in the city without first filing a bond with the city clerk in the penal sum of \$5,000.00, which indemnifies and holds the city harmless from any and all costs, damages or expenses resulting from the erection of any sign by such person or resulting from the negligence, failure or refusal of such person to comply with the provisions of this chapter or any other ordinance or resolution pertaining to signs.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-12)

Secs. 46-6—46-35. Reserved.**ARTICLE II. PERMITS****Sec. 46-36. Permits required.**

No person shall erect any sign in the city without first obtaining a permit from the building inspector, with the exception of the following:

- (1) Professional nameplates not exceeding one square foot in area;
- (2) The changing of advertising material or copy on a sign;
- (3) Bulletin boards for public, charitable or religious institutions not over 20 square feet in area when the same are located on the premises of the institutions, however, if the signs are electrically illuminated an electrical permit must be obtained;

- (4) Occupational signs denoting only the name and profession of an occupant in a commercial, public or institutional building and not exceeding two square feet in area;
 - (5) Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or aluminum;
 - (6) Traffic or other municipal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger and such temporary emergency or nonadvertising signs as may be approved by the building inspector;
 - (7) Signs advertising the rental, sale or lease of property upon which they are located;
 - (8) Temporary signs of four square feet or less, including political signs;
 - (9) Trailer signs advertising nonprofit organizational fund raiser activities.
- (Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-5; Ord. of 9-27-1993)

Sec. 46-37. Application.

Application for sign erection permits shall be made to the building inspector and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

- (1) Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
 - (2) Location of building, structure or lot on which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected;
 - (3) Position of the sign or other advertising structure in relation to nearby buildings or structures;
 - (4) One blueprint or ink drawing of the plan and specifications, including electrical specifications, and method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground;
 - (5) Name of the person erecting the structure;
 - (6) Written consent of the owner where the sign is to be erected on vacant land;
 - (7) Bond as required by section 46-5;
 - (8) Other information as the building inspector shall require to show full compliance with this chapter;
 - (9) Fees as shall be required by the city commission.
- (Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-6)

Sec. 46-38. Special approval.

Applications for signs having an area of more than 32 square feet shall be approved by the city planning commission.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-7)

Sec. 46-39. Expiration.

If the work authorized under an erection permit has not been completed within six months from the date of issuance, the permit shall expire and be of no further force or effect.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-8)

Secs. 46-40—46-70. Reserved.**ARTICLE III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SIGNS****Sec. 46-71. Sign message.**

Except in industrial zoning districts, no sign shall be constructed or maintained which does not advertise a business transacted, or goods sold or produced, on the premises on which the sign is located.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(1))

Sec. 46-72. Illumination permitted.

Reflectors, lights and other forms of illumination shall be permitted on all signs. No sign shall be illuminated in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic. No rotating illuminated beacon shall be permitted. The use of string electric lightbulbs which illuminate products which are stored outdoors for sale is prohibited. In no case shall any sign illumination exceed a level of illumination of eight-hundredths footcandle, and a luminaire brightness of 2,400 footlamberts, when measured from the nearest or adjacent residential zoned property.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(2))

Sec. 46-73. Signs not to constitute a traffic hazard.

No sign shall be erected that obstructs the view or causes confusion with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device, or which makes use of the words "stop," "look," "danger," or any word, phrase, symbol or character that interferes with, misleads or confuses traffic.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(3))

Cross reference—Traffic and vehicles, ch. 54.

Sec. 46-74. Obscene matter prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to display upon any sign or other advertising structure any obscene, indecent or immoral matter.
(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(4))

Sec. 46-75. Removal of certain signs.

Any sign, supports and attachments which at the time of construction advertised a business being conducted, or a product being sold or produced on the premises on which the sign is

located, but no longer does so, shall be removed by the owner of the building, structure or premises upon which the sign is located within 30 days after written notice from the building inspector to remove the sign.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(5))

Sec. 46-76. Portable signs.

Signs on or attached to trucks or motor vehicles, which advertise goods, products or services shall not be parked so as to become a permanent display sign.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(6))

Secs. 46-77—46-110. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS BY TYPE OF SIGN

Sec. 46-111. Adult bookstores.

No sign advertising adult bookstores shall be situated outside a business within the city.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-2(7))

Sec. 46-112. Trailer signs.

Trailer signs shall be restricted to commercial areas only and permit shall not exceed a two week display period.

Sec. 46-113. Ground signs.

(a) *Height and area limitations.* No ground sign shall be erected or maintained more than 20 feet above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining level, if such ground sign shall have a single surface area exceeding 50 square feet for a single face sign and 100 square feet for signs of two or more faces. All ground signs shall be placed on the same parcel of property as the building or use to which it is accessory.

(b) *Number of signs.* Only one ground sign for every 100 feet may be erected as an accessory to any single building, structure or shopping center regardless of the number of separate parties, tenants or uses contained therein, provided it is located on a parcel of land that has 100 feet of property abutting on one street. Such a sign must be located adjacent to the right-of-way or parking lot from which its maximum allowable size is determined.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(1))

Sec. 46-114. Wall signs.

(a) *Limitation of placement.* No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, nor project beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached.

(b) *Projection and height over public property.* No wall sign shall have a greater thickness than 12 inches measured from the wall to which it is attached to the outer surface and shall not be attached to a wall at a height of less than eight feet above a public sidewalk and at a minimum of 15 feet above public driveways, alleys and thoroughfares.

(c) *Area limitations.* The total surface area of all wall signs placed on the front of a building shall not exceed two square feet for each lineal foot of building frontage, and all wall signs placed on other than the front of a building shall not exceed a total surface area of 100 square feet.

(d) *Supports and attachments.* All wall signs shall be safely and securely attached to the building by means of metal anchors, bolts or expansion screws. In no case shall any wall sign be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails.

(e) *Vertical dimension or height.* The vertical dimension of a wall sign shall not exceed six feet. No wall sign shall project vertically above the roof of the building immediately adjacent to such wall.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(2))

Sec. 46-115. Roof signs.

(a) *Limitation of sign.* No roof sign shall be permitted if there is a wall sign on the same building.

(b) *Limitation of placement.* A roof sign shall be parallel with the front wall of the building on which it is erected.

(c) *Area and height limitations.* The total surface area of any roof sign placed on the front of a building shall not exceed 50 square feet. A roof sign shall not exceed three feet in height.

(1) In the case of flat or sloping roofs, a roof sign shall not extend above the height of that portion of the roof covering more than 50 percent of the ground area of the building.

(2) In the case of gable, hip or curved roofs, a roof sign shall not extend more than three feet above the eave line.

In no event shall a roof sign extend above the peak of the roof of the building to which it is affixed.

(d) *Material required.* Every roof sign, including the upright supports and braces thereof, shall be constructed entirely of incombustible materials; provided, however, that combustible structural trim may be used.

(e) *Bracing, anchorage and supports.* Every roof sign shall be thoroughly secured to the building by iron or other metal anchors, bolts, supports, rods or braces.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(3))

Sec. 46-116. Projecting signs.

Projecting signs are permitted if there is no wall or roof sign. The sign area shall not exceed 30 square feet per face.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(4)); Ord. of 9-27-1993)

Sec. 46-117. Marquee signs.

No marquee signs shall be permitted.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(5))

Sec. 46-118. Temporary signs.

The following regulations shall be applicable to all temporary signs placed other than inside a building:

- (1) *Permits required.* A permit is required to erect any temporary sign in excess of four square feet.
- (2) *Display period.* Cloth or canvas signs, pennants or banners shall be erected for a period not to exceed two weeks in any six-month period.
- (3) *Projection into right-of-way.* No temporary sign shall be strung across any public right-of-way, nor shall any temporary sign project beyond the property line, nor be placed on any tree lawn.
- (4) *Area and height.* No temporary sign may have a single face greater than 15 square feet in area, nor have a total surface area greater than 30 square feet, nor be more than ten feet above the ground, provided that the lower edge of the sign shall be of a height of not less than 18 inches above the surrounding ground level.
- (5) *Number of signs.* Only one self-supporting sign shall be displayed on any lot regardless of lot size.
- (6) *Removal.* Temporary signs shall be removed promptly at the end of the display period provided for in this section.
- (7) *Unsafe signs.* Any temporary sign found by the building inspector and the city planning commission to be in an unsafe condition must be removed by the owner within three days after his receipt of notice to do so from the building inspector, as authorized by the city planning commission.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(6))

Sec. 46-119. Off-premises signs.

Off-premises (third party or outdoor advertising) signs, including billboards, shall be restricted to industrial districts. Off-premises nonprofit organizational signs, excluding billboards, shall not be restricted to industrial districts. They shall not be permitted on wall or roof locations. They shall also be subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) Off-premises signs on the same street facing the same traffic flow shall not be placed closer together than 300 feet.

- (2) Off-premises signs can be double-faced and each side shall be considered as facing traffic flowing in the opposite direction.
 - (3) Advertising shall not exceed 300 square feet per side and the total area shall not exceed 600 square feet.
 - (4) Structures for off-premises signs shall be of vertical (cantilever) construction, and where the back is visible, it shall be suitably painted or otherwise covered to present a neat and clean appearance.
 - (5) Advertising signs or structures having an area of more than 100 square feet shall not be erected within 50 feet of any public street or highway.
- (Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(7))

Sec. 46-120. Painted signs.

Signs painted on the front of a building shall not have a total surface area in excess of two square feet for each lineal foot of building frontage, provided that signs painted on other than the front of the building shall not exceed a total surface area of 100 square feet.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(8))

Sec. 46-121. Service station signs.

No signs shall be located on fuel pump islands except those constituting an integral part of the pump itself or those required by state law or regulation. There shall be no signs attached to fuel pump canopies except those identifying self-service and full-service pumps, in which case the maximum size shall be six square feet in surface display area per message. One additional two-sided sign indicating only price and grade of gasoline as shown on the pumps, either side not to exceed 12 square feet in surface display area, may be displayed on the premises. Service stations with convenience stores, may display on the premises, up to two one- to two-sided signs, either side not to exceed 12 square feet in surface display area and messages shall not exceed a two-week display period.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(9))

Sec. 46-122. Churches and schools.

Churches, colleges, Sunday schools, schools, buildings, buildings housing government functions and utilities of the city, county or state or any subdivision thereof, are permitted to erect a sign not to exceed 20 square feet in area or an overall height of six feet. Such signs when of a permanent nature shall be constructed of incombustible material.

(Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-3(10))

Secs. 46-123—46-155. Reserved.

ARTICLE V. REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Sec. 46-156. Signs in residential areas.

Signs erected or maintained in residential districts shall be limited to:

- (1) *Signs advertising the rental, sale or lease of property upon which they are located.* Such signs shall not have a surface area greater than six square feet and there shall be only one sign per parcel.
 - (2) *Signs advertising buildings under construction.* Such signs may be erected for the period of construction and shall not exceed a face area of 32 square feet. Such signs shall be erected on the building or lot where such construction is being carried on and shall advertise only the architect, contractor, subcontractor, building or materials and equipment used.
 - (3) *Political.* No political sign shall be placed on tree lawns and public property. No political signs shall be displayed in the city more than 60 days prior to election of a candidate and/or a proposal and must be removed within two days after such election.
 - (4) *Home business.* One sign advertising a home business on residential property may be placed or attached to any building structure on any given residential property. Such sign shall not exceed four square feet in area and shall not be more than six feet above ground level.
 - (5) *Multiple-family residential units.* Signs advertising multiple-family residential units shall not exceed ten square feet in area and shall not be more than four feet above ground level. Such signs shall be made of noncombustible material and shall contain no advertising or information other than the name and address of the residential unit. Only one such sign may be erected for each multiple-family complex.
- (Ord. of 2-8-1993, § 92-4)

Chapters 47—49

RESERVED