

comments, the FHWA revises the STANDARD statement and adds GUIDANCE and OPTION statements to allow phone numbers and Internet addresses on signs in certain limited circumstances, minimizing the potential effects on safety. The language in this final rule permits abbreviated telephone numbers (four characters or less) on signs. Signs with telephone numbers of more than four characters and Internet addresses may be provided in parking and pedestrian areas, or on low-speed roadways where engineering judgment indicates that vehicles can safely stop out of the traffic flow to read the sign.

12. In Section 2A.07 Changeable Message Signs, the FHWA revises the GUIDANCE statement to include safety messages as one of the types of allowable displays for changeable message signs. There were two comments from the NCUTCD and the City of Tucson, Arizona, in support of this change, while two commenters representing the Kansas DOT opposed it. The Kansas DOT stated that to encourage the display of safety messages on changeable message signs could desensitize the traveling public towards regulatory, warning, and guidance information that is displayed at other times. The FHWA adopts the proposed change because it is included in a GUIDANCE statement, which gives the individual States the flexibility to permit or not permit safety messages on changeable message signs.

Additionally, the FHWA adds at the end of the section OPTION, SUPPORT, GUIDANCE, and STANDARD statements regarding the use, design, and format of safety and other messages so that they do not adversely affect the usefulness of the sign. There were two comments from the Kansas DOT opposed to the new OPTION statement, stating that changeable message signs should be used only when there is a need. Because this is an OPTION statement, the FHWA believes that it gives any individual State the flexibility to use this option if it so chooses. To explicitly reinforce this, the FHWA adds a sentence to the OPTION statement that State and local agencies may develop and establish a policy regarding safety and transportation-related message signs, for both permanent and changeable message signs, which specifies allowable messages and applications. To mirror and reinforce the information contained in Table 2A-4, the FHWA also adds to the OPTION statement that changeable message signs (including portable changeable message signs) that display a regulatory or warning message may use a black background with a white, yellow,

orange, red, or fluorescent yellow-green legend as appropriate.

13. In Section 2A.08 Retroreflectivity and Illumination, the FHWA revises Table 2A-1 by replacing "Patterns of incandescent light bulbs" with "Incandescent light bulbs" and by adding "Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)" to the listed Means of Illumination to reflect current technology. There were nine comments from the NCUTCD, the City of Tucson, Arizona, traffic control device manufacturers, and private citizens supporting this change, particularly the addition of light emitting diodes (LEDs). To provide additional clarification to the table, the FHWA creates a separate row in the table for light emitting diodes under the Means of Illumination and includes symbols or word messages and portions of the sign border as sign elements to be illuminated. In addition, based on comments from the NCUTCD, the FHWA adds to the OPTION statement additional information regarding the use of LEDs within the face of a sign and in the border of a sign and adds a new STANDARD statement following this OPTION to specify the color and flash rate for LEDs used on a sign.

Additionally, the FHWA adds a new SUPPORT statement at the end of the section referencing information contained in Section 2A.21 Posts and Mountings on the use of retroreflective material on the sign support. There was one comment from the NCUTCD in support of this change. The FHWA adopts this change.

14. In Section 2A.10 Shapes, the FHWA revises Table 2A-3 by removing the Emergency Evacuation Route Sign from the listed signs for the circle shape because the FHWA changes the design of this sign to be a rectangular plate in accordance with other guide signs, as indicated in Section 2I.03 EVACUATION ROUTE Sign (EM-1). The FHWA received two comments from the NCUTCD and the City of Tucson, Arizona, in support of this change, and one comment from the Florida DOT opposed to it. The Florida DOT opposed because it currently uses the circle shape for the Emergency Evacuation Route Sign and believes that the proposed change would have a large statewide impact to its evacuation program. The FHWA notes that the Emergency Evacuation Route Sign has not been changed; it has just been put onto a white rectangular background so that the circular shape can be reserved for another use. The FHWA adopts the change, but to address the Florida DOT's comment, adds a phase-in target compliance date of 15 years from the date this final rule is effective for the

change in shape, for signs in good condition.

Additionally, the FHWA revises Table 2A-3 to list the Trapezoid shape for use as "Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Series" and "National Forest Route" signs. The FHWA received two comments from the City of Tucson, Arizona, and the NCUTCD in support of this change, and adopts this change.

15. In Section 2A.11 Sign Colors, the FHWA modifies the STANDARD statement to read "The colors to be used on standard signs and their specific use on these signs shall be as indicated in the applicable sections of this Manual. The color coordinates and values shall be as described in 23 CFR, Part 655, Subpart F, Appendix." This modification clarifies that the color requirements apply to all signs in the MUTCD, not just those in Part 2, and refers to the correct location of the color coordinates and values. There were no comments on this change.

In the NPA, the FHWA proposed using the color coral for incident management uses, however in response to comments from traffic control device manufacturers about this section and Part 6, the FHWA changes this color assignment to fluorescent pink because this name more clearly describes the color in the color tints. See also the discussion under Section 1A.12 Color Code, which also applies to this section. As a result, the FHWA withdraws this proposal to modify the SUPPORT statement to delete the color coral from the reserved colors, and retains the text as shown in the 2000 MUTCD which includes the color coral as a reserved color for a use that will be determined in the future. Additionally, the FHWA adds to the SUPPORT statement that information regarding color coding of destinations on guide signs is contained in Section 2D.03 Color, Retroreflection, and Illumination.

The FHWA also modifies Table 2A-4 by adding a new column on the right hand side for the color fluorescent pink, by adding a new row "Incident Management" to the bottom, by adding a second new row "Changeable Message Signs" at the bottom, following Incident Management, and by adding or revising color designations and notes to reflect proposed changes in other parts of the MUTCD. The FHWA makes additional editorial changes to the table, and moves Reference Location, Street Name, and Destination signs to be listed as Guide signs, and the Evacuation Route sign to be listed under Information signs, in response to a comment from Caltrans and to maintain consistency within the MUTCD.