

## Article H: Signs, Canopies, Awnings and Billboards

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### **Sec. 13-1-140 Purpose of Sign, Canopy and Awning Regulations.**

The purpose of this Article is to establish minimum standards to safeguard life and property and promote public welfare and community aesthetics by regulating the appearance, construction, location and maintenance of all signs, awnings, canopies and billboards. The provisions herein contained shall be binding alike upon every owner of a building, every lessee and every person in charge or responsible for or who causes the construction, repair, relocation or alteration of any outdoor sign and other advertising structures in the City of Abbotsford; painting, posting and general maintenance are excepted.

### **Sec. 13-1-141 Signs, Canopies, Awnings and Billboards—Definitions.**

The following definitions are used in this Article:

- (a) **Area of Sign.** The area is the perimeter which forms the outside shape, but excluding the necessary supports or uprights on which the sign may be placed unless they are designed as part of the sign. If the sign consists of more than one section or module, all areas will be totaled. The area of an irregularly shaped sign shall be computed using the actual sign face surface. The area of the irregularly shaped sign shall be the entire area within a single continuous rectilinear perimeter of not more than eight (8) straight lines.
- (b) **Awning.** A temporary hood or cover which projects from the wall of the building, which can be retracted, folded or collapsed against the face of a supporting structure.
- (c) **Billboard.** A sign which advertises goods, products or facilities, or services not necessarily on the premises where the sign is located or directs persons to a different location from where the sign is located.
- (d) **Blanketing.** The unreasonable obstruction of view of a sign caused by the placement of another sign.
- (e) **Canopy.** A canopy is a shelter, with or without a sign, attached to or connected with a building and extending into a setback or over the public sidewalk.
- (f) **Day.** A day shall be designated as a period of time in terms of calendar days.
- (g) **Directly Illuminated Sign.** Any sign designed to give any artificial light directly through any transparent or translucent material from a source of light originating within or on such sign.
- (h) **Directory Sign.** Shall mean any sign on which the names and locations of occupants or the use of a building is given. This shall include offices and church directories. Directory signs shall be encouraged for use with advertising of multiple-occupied commercial and industrial buildings.
- (i) **Electronic Message Unit Sign.** Any sign whose message may be changed by electronic process, including such messages as copy, art, graphics, time, date, temperature, weather

- or information concerning civic, charitable or the advertising of products or services for sale on the premises. This also includes traveling or segmented message displays.
- (j) **Flashing Sign.** Any directly or indirectly illuminated sign on which artificial light is not maintained stationary and constant in intensity and color at all times when in use.
  - (k) **Freestanding (Ground and/or Pole Sign).** Any sign which is supported by structures or supports in or upon the ground and independent of support from any building.
  - (l) **Identification Sign.** Any sign which carries only the name of the firm, major enterprise, institution or principal products offered for sale on the premises or combination of these.
  - (m) **Indirectly Illuminated Sign.** Shall mean a sign that is illuminated from a source outside of the actual sign.
  - (n) **Marquee Sign.** Shall mean any sign attached to and made part of a marquee. A marquee is defined as a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building wall at an entrance to a building or extending along and projecting beyond the building's wall and generally designed and constructed to provide protection against weather.
  - (o) **Nonconforming Sign.** Any sign which does not conform to the regulations of this Article.
  - (p) **Off-Premise Sign.** Any sign, device or display which advertises goods other than that commonly available or services other than that commonly performed on the premise on which the sign is located.
  - (q) **Political Sign.** Any sign displaying a candidate for an election, or a current referendum or election subject matter.
  - (r) **Portable Sign/Message Boards.** Any sign not permanently attached to the ground which is designed to be easily moved from one location to another. A "sandwich-style" portable sign is a sign not permanently attached to the ground, meant to be temporarily placed outside, not exceeding four (4) inches by four (4) inches on each side.
  - (s) **Projecting Sign.** Any sign extending more than eighteen (18) inches, but less than four (4) feet from the face of a wall or building; such sign may not extend more than three (3) feet into the right-of-way.
  - (t) **Real Estate Sign.** Any sign which is used to offer for sale, lease or rent the property upon which the sign is placed.
  - (u) **Roof Sign.** Any sign erected upon or over the roof or parapet of any building.
  - (v) **Sign.** A sign shall include anything that promotes, calls attention or invites patronage (or anything similar to the aforementioned) to a business, location or product.
  - (w) **Temporary Sign.** Any sign which is erected or displayed for a limited period of time not to exceed twenty-eight (28) consecutive days or which is displayed only during regular business hours and removed for storage at other times. A temporary sign shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in area. Examples of temporary signs include banners and decorative-type displays. For purposes of this Chapter, a portable sign is not a temporary sign.
  - (x) **Wall Sign.** Any sign attached to, erected on or painted on the wall of a building or structure and projecting not more than sixteen (16) inches from such wall.
  - (y) **Window Sign.** Any sign located completely within an enclosed building and visible from a public way.