

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Traffic Signs		NUMBER: TE-337
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Clearview Highway Font		DATE: September 1, 2005
		SUPERSEDES:
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators		SIGNATURE: <i>R. J. Khoury</i>

The Clearview Highway font was developed to provide increased visibility and reduced halation (over glow) on highway signs. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued an Interim Approval for the optional use of this font, if a jurisdiction submits a written request. VDOT has requested and received a conditional usage statement that will allow us to transition to using Clearview font for positive contrast (white type) legends on guide signs.

Designs for positive contrast guide signs shall now be accomplished using Clearview font, if it is practical to achieve. The legend shall be spaced according to Clearview spacing tables and not E-Modified. Action word messages and cardinal directions shall remain in all upper case letters as specified in the MUTCD. A guide for converting the Standard Highway Signs (SHS) Alphabet to the Clearview font is shown below:

SHS Standard Alphabet	Clearview "W" Series
Series B	Clearview 1-W
Series C	Clearview 2-W
Series D	Clearview 3-W
Series E	Clearview 4-W
Series E-Modified	Clearview 5-W & 5-W-R*
Series F	Clearview 1-W

* Clearview 5-W-R has tighter letter space than 5-W and is designed for replacement of overhead guide signs in which the 5-W is too wide for the specific application.

Clearview font shall be fabricated using prismatic sheeting for the legend and permanent Type III (high intensity) or prismatic sheeting for the background. This applies to overhead and ground mounted guide signs. Clearview font may also be used on guide sign overlayments, in accordance with the same specifications and if there is adequate space on the panel.

This does not apply to signs with unique designs using non-highway fonts.

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