

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Signs Pavement Markings		NUMBER: TE-284.1
		SUPERSEDES: TE-284.0
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Parking Spaces for Persons With Disabilities		DATE: January 28, 2015
		SUNSET DATE: None
DIRECTED TO: District Location & Design Engineers Regional Operations Directors Regional Traffic Engineers Regional Operations Maintenance Managers VDOT District Park & Ride Coordinators District Maintenance Engineers	APPROVAL: /original signed by/ Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. State Traffic Engineer Richmond, VA Approved January 28, 2015	

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS TO MEMORANDUM

- Revised to specify red text for the R7-VP1 “Tow-Away Zone Penalty \$100-\$500 Fine” sign instead of green text, as per the 2011 [Virginia Supplement to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices \(MUTCD\)](#).
- Deleted text related to required number of and layout of parking spaces for persons with disabilities. The superseded memo did not match the most recent federal standards. The [VDOT Road Design Manual](#), Appendix C now provides those design standards.
- Reorganized to improve clarity.

EFFECTIVE DATE

New signs: contracts issued for advertisement on or after August 1, 2015 shall be in full compliance. This policy should also be applied to contracts issued for advertisement before that date if feasible.

The following provisions are effective immediately for maintenance replacement activities when feasible.

Existing parking lots without disabled parking signage: Parking spaces for persons with disabilities (on-street or in parking lots) that are VDOT’s responsibility and do not have any R7-VP1 signs as required by VA Code shall be signed in accordance with these requirements.

Signs that have already been fabricated: Green R7-VP1 signs that have already been fabricated may be erected.

Existing signs: existing R7-VP1 sign panels with green font may remain until the end of their useful service life.

PURPOSE AND NEED

This memorandum clarifies the required signs that must be posted at VDOT-maintained parking spaces for persons with disabilities, as per the MUTCD, the [Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD](#), and [§ 36-99.11](#) of the Code of Virginia.

BACKGROUND

[§ 36-99.11](#) of the Code of Virginia requires the following:

- All parking spaces shall be designated with above-ground signing. A pavement marking symbol alone is not sufficient. A parking space cannot be considered to be reserved for persons with disabilities without the required signage.
- The bottom of such signs shall be between 4-7 feet above the parking surface.
- All parking signs for persons with disabilities shall include the following language: PENALTY, \$100-500 Fine, TOW-AWAY ZONE.

STANDARDS

Section 1 - Signs

All parking spaces for persons with disabilities, whether on-street or in a parking lots, shall be signed as follows (in order from top to bottom) and as illustrated in Figure 1:

- 1) R7-8 “Reserved Parking for Persons With Disabilities” sign, then
- 2) R7-8P plaque (if the spot is Van Accessible), and lastly
- 3) R7-VP1 “Tow-Away Zone Penalty \$100-\$500 Fine” sign.

As required by §36-99.11, the bottom of the R7-VP1 sign shall be between 4-7 feet above the parking spot elevation.

One sign assembly is required for each parking spot for persons with disabilities.

The previous TE Memo 284 depicted a R7-VP1 sign with green text on white background. Starting with the 2011 Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD, the R7-VP1 sign has been changed to require red Type IX retroreflectorized text on white Type IX retroreflectorized background.

Section 2 – Parking Space Layout and Pavement Markings

For the number, dimensions, and layout of parking spots for persons with disabilities in VDOT-maintained parking lots based on applicable Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, refer to the VDOT *Road Design Manual*, Appendix C.

The Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD states that the International Symbol of Accessibility should be placed in each parking space designated for use by persons with disabilities. VDOT requires that such symbols, when used, be 36” by 41”.

REFERENCE

- 2009 MUTCD
- 2011 Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD With Revisions
- VDOT Road Design Manual

CC:

Deputy Chief Engineer - Mohammad Mirshahi, P.E.
L&D Division Administrator – Bart Thrasher, P.E.
Residency Administrators
VCTIR Director - Dr. Jose Gomez, P.E.
FHWA Virginia Division Administrator - Irene Rico
Central Virginia Sign Shop – Chuck Koebel
Transportation Mobility & Planning Division Policy Specialist – Liz McAdory
Civil Rights Division Administrator – Sandra Norman
Maintenance Division Administrator – Kevin Gregg

FIGURE 1 – SIGNING EXAMPLE

