

Sign Exemption – Terms and conditions

If a sign application meets specific criteria, a person may apply for a sign exemption as an alternative to applying for a sign permit. A person to whom a sign exemption is granted must comply with all the following terms and conditions:

1. Any sign installation undertaken through an exemption is subject to the provisions of Sections 11-19 and Sections 55-58 of the *Highways Development and Protection Act* (Chapter H-8.5 RSA 2004), and any amendments thereto, and Highways Development and Protection Regulation (AR 326/2009) and any amendments thereto.
2. The exemption from the requirement of a permit under the Highways Development and Protection Regulation by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors does not relieve the landowner of the responsibility of complying with relevant municipal bylaws, and does not excuse violation of any other regulation, bylaw, or act that may affect installation of the sign.
3. This exemption is binding on the owner of the land where the sign is being installed, and extends to the owner's heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns.
4. The landowner shall maintain the sign in a proper state of repair.
5. The landowner and/or the sign owner shall indemnify and hold harmless Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, its employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, actions and costs whatsoever that may arise, directly or indirectly from anything done or omitted to be done in the construction, maintenance, or alteration of the sign.
6. The sign content, size, placement, and letter size shall follow the required standards listed in the [Recommended Practices Guidelines](#).
7. The sign shall be placed a minimum of 10 metres from the highway right-of-way boundary.
8. The sign shall be removed by the landowner when it is obsolete/no longer required.
9. The sign shall be relocated or removed at the request of Transportation and Economic Corridors e.g., to accommodate future highway expansion, highway related construction or maintenance activities, or when the sign is deemed unsafe such as obstructing the view of the roadway.
10. The sign may be removed or relocated by Transportation and Economic Corridors or the Municipality at the landowner's sole expense.
11. No sign shall be placed that contains any of the characteristics listed in Section 15 of the Highways Development and Protection Regulation:
 - Displays an intermittent flashing, rotating, or moving light
 - Is flood-lighted in such a manner as to cause a visual distraction for the motoring public
 - Has any moving or rotating part
 - Bears a legend giving a command to stop, stop ahead, look, or exercise caution, or gives a similar command, or
 - Bears a legend that in any way imitates a standard or commonly used highway traffic sign.

Transportation and Economic Corridors may require the landowner to move, remove or alter any unauthorized signs that do not comply with the requirements listed herein, and do not otherwise have a permit as required through the Highways Development and Protection Regulation. Failure to undertake the work as directed may cause the Ministry to carry out the work and recover the cost of that work from the owner.

Noncompliance with any of the conditions in this exemption and/or failure to obtain a permit for a sign may result in administrative penalties. Failure to pay an assessed administrative penalty may result in enforcement through the Court of King's Bench. This exemption is valid until December 31, 2026 and may be cancelled without prior notice.