



Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR Director, Bureau of Traffic Operations	2-1-45
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 1	General
SUBJECT 45	Usage of Fluorescent Sheeting on Signs

A. Purpose

Fluorescent colored sheeting can be advantageous to use on certain traffic signs. In addition to enhanced nighttime retroreflectivity, the fluorescent color allows for greater daytime conspicuity of signs as well. This is especially important for enhancing traffic safety of the motorist and addressing the fact that a greater percentage of people in our population are becoming older and their eyesight requires a brighter sheeting material.

There are three colors of fluorescent sheetings that are commercially available: orange, yellow and yellow-green. The Federal Highway Administration allows the use of fluorescent yellow-green sheeting on some warning signs for pedestrian, bicycle, playground and school applications. The following guidelines limit the usage of the three fluorescent sheeting colors to certain specific signs in order to retain the unique quality of the sheeting.

B. Policy

Fluorescent Yellow Sheeting

Beginning in June 2010, WisDOT has been in the process of converting yellow warning signs from ASTM D4956 Type IV (prismatic high intensity yellow) to ASTM D4956 Type XI fluorescent yellow, starting with the most critical of warning signs. Phase 1 (June 2010) included signs such as Stop Ahead, No Passing Zone, Pedestrian Crossing, Chevrons and Large Arrows. Phase 2 (June 2012) included Curve and Turn signs, Intersection Warning signs, advisory speed signs and bridge object markers. The final phase for implementation (Phase 3) will be for the remainder of the warning signs. **This change will be complete by December 1, 2013.** Beginning with the December 2013 Letting, all warning signs on WisDOT projects will be converted to ASTM D4956 Type XI fluorescent yellow. Replace existing conventional yellow signs with fluorescent yellow as they wear out, through improvement projects or sign damage/knockdowns.

All chevrons in a curve or turn **shall** match sheeting color (either fluorescent yellow or conventional yellow). If warning signs are doubled up on an approach, the sheeting

shall match (either fluorescent yellow or conventional yellow). Supplemental warning plaques **shall** match the main signs that they supplement. No mixing of colors.

Fluorescent Yellow-Green Sheeting

S1-1 School Crossing Signs, S4-51 School Speed Limit Assemblies, S4-52 School In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs, S4-5 School Reduced Speed Limit Warning Signs on the WisDOT Highway System **shall** use fluorescent yellow-green sheeting. The usage of fluorescent yellow-green sheeting **shall** also be used on the Ahead plaque (WF16-9P) for the School Advance Sign location, and Diagonal Down Arrow signs (WF16-7L and WF16-7R) for the School Crossing Sign location. No other signs **shall** use the fluorescent yellow-green sheeting.

S3-1 School Bus Stop Ahead and S3-51 School Bus Traffic Signs- Replace existing conventional yellow signs with fluorescent yellow signs as they wear out, through improvement projects or damage claim knockdowns. All School Bus Stop Ahead signs and School Bus Traffic signs **shall** be replaced with the fluorescent yellow-green symbol sign no later than January 1, 2016.

Any signs with fluorescent yellow-green sheeting other than the School Crossing Signs, that were installed before the date this policy became effective, *may* remain in place. Once these signs have reached their useful life, the Region **shall** replace them with regular yellow sheeting signs.

Fluorescent Orange Sheeting

Fluorescent Orange sheeting **shall** be used on all work zone warning signs.

Fluorescent Orange sheeting **shall** be used for all construction detour route assemblies (M4-5 TO, M4-1A ALT, M5 and M6 Series arrows and M4-8 Detour Plaques) and traffic control fixed message signs.