

# TECH NEWS

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

September-October 2004

## MUTCD proposed amendment re sign retroreflectivity

On July 30, 2004, the FHWA published a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the MUTCD regarding sign retroreflectivity. The "PROPOSED Revision No. 2 to the 2003 MUTCD" is on the MUTCD website, <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>. Proposed text is clearly marked in the document margins of the file.

Review this information to determine how these changes could affect your agency. Comments are due by October 28, 2004, and must include the docket number, FHWA-2003-15149.

In summary, the proposed new Section 2A.09 Minimum Retroreflectivity provides guidance for measuring and managing sign retroreflectivity to maintain minimum levels. They include the following options:

- Visual nighttime inspection
- Retroreflectometer measurements
- Expected sign life
- Blanket replacement
- Sampling of control signs

The proposed text provides the option to exclude several signs from these guidelines:

- Parking, Standing, and Stopping signs (R7 and R8 series)
- Walking/Hitchhiking/Crossing signs (R9 series, R10-1 through R10-4b)
- Adopt-A-Highway signs
- All signs with blue or brown backgrounds
- Bikeway signs that are intended for exclusive use by bicyclists or pedestrians

The MUTCD text refers to a [supplemental document on maintaining traffic sign retroreflectivity](#), which includes minimum maintained retroreflectivity levels.

Other supplemental documents to the docket are also available from the FHWA at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Use the docket number (15149) to search.

After the comment period has ended and all comments have been considered, the FHWA will adopt the final rule, although

## Comment on the proposed MUTCD revision

You can submit comments to the Federal Register any of several ways:

- Send them to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.
- [Submit them electronically](#) or via the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#), (follow online instructions).
- Fax your comments to 202-493-2251.

Remember to include the docket number with your comments.

## Keep up with MUTCD revisions

The MUTCD Broadcast LISTSERV notifies subscribers of new information posted on the MUTCD website. For example, when a new Federal Register Notice is published or a new Interim Approval is issued, a broadcast message will be sent by e-mail to each subscriber. To subscribe, go to <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/ser-listserv.htm>.

no schedule for that action has been decided.

---