



# Recently Published “Notice of Proposed Amendments”

## Revisions to the 2009 MUTCD



# Proposed Amendments

- Definition of Standards – (Section 1A.13)
  - Published in Federal Register on August 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Comments by October 3<sup>rd</sup>
  
- Revision of Target Compliance Dates – (Introduction)
  - Published in Federal Register on August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Comments by October 31<sup>st</sup>



## “Standard” Revision ??

- Allow modification in very limited situations where engineering study or judgment concludes that a deviation is appropriate due to unusual site conditions
- Not intended to allow noncompliance with Standards on a blanket basis

# Compliance Dates Revisions ??

- 58 target compliance dates in 2009 Manual
  - Most are carry-overs from previous editions
- Proposed rule would eliminate 46 of these
  - Including 8 already expired
- Extend and/or revise 4 dates
  - 2A.08, 4D.26, 4E.06, and 8B.03
- No change for 8
  - 2A.19, 2B.40, 2C.06 thru 2C.14, 2E.31, .33, & .36, 6D.03, 6E.02, 7D.04, & 8B.04

Table I-2. Target Compliance Dates Established by the FHWA

| 2009 MUTCD Section Number(s) | 2009 MUTCD Section Title   | Specific Provision   | Compliance Date  |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2A.08                        | <del>Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity Levels</del>                                      | Implementation and continued use of an assessment or management method that is designed to maintain <del>traffic-regulatory and warning</del> sign retroreflectivity at or above the established minimum levels <del>(see Paragraph 2)</del> | <del>January 22, 2013 (c) 2 years from the effective date of this revision of the 2009 MUTCD</del> |
| <del>2A.08</del>             | <del>Minimum Retroreflectivity Levels</del>  | <del>Replacement of regulatory, warning, and post-mounted guide (except street name) signs that are identified using the assessment or management method as failing to meet the established minimum levels.</del>                            | <del>January 22, 2016 (e)</del>  |
| <del>2A.08</del>             | <del>Minimum Retroreflectivity Levels</del>  | <del>Replacement of street name signs and overhead guide signs that are identified using the assessment or management method as failing to meet the established minimum levels.</del>  | <del>January 22, 2016 (c)</del>  |
| 2A.19                        | Lateral Offset   | Crashworthiness of sign supports on roads with posted speed limit of 50 mph or higher <del>(see Paragraph 2)</del>   | January 17, 2013 <del>(a) (date established in the 2000 MUTCD)</del>                               |
| <del>2B.03</del>             | <del>Size of Regulatory Signs</del>  | <del>Increased sign sizes and other 2003 MUTCD revisions to Table 2B-1 (*)</del>   | <del>December 22, 2013 (b)</del>   |
| <del>2B.09</del>             | <del>YIELD Sign Applications</del>   | <del>Changes in YIELD sign application criteria from the 1988 MUTCD to the 2003 MUTCD (*)</del>  | <del>January 17, 2011 (a)</del>  |
| <del>2B.10</del>             | <del>STOP Sign or YIELD Sign Placement</del>   | <del>Signs mounted on the back of STOP or YIELD signs should not obscure shape of STOP sign, with exception for DO NOT ENTER signs (2003 MUTCD Sections 2B.05 and 2B.10) (*)</del>   | <del>December 22, 2013 (b)</del>   |
| <del>2B.11</del>             | <del>Yield Here To Pedestrians Signs and Stop Here For Pedestrians Signs (R1-6 Series)</del> | <del>New Section 2B.11 in the 2003 MUTCD (*)</del>   | <del>December 22, 2013 (b)</del>   |
| <del>2B.13</del>             | <del>Speed Limit Sign (R2-1)</del>   | <del>Color of changeable message legend of YOUR SPEED legend</del>   | <del>December 22, 2013 (b)</del>   |
| <del>2B.26</del>             | <del>Reversible Lane Control Signs (R3-9a through R3-9i)</del>                               | <del>Removal of the R3-9c and R3-9e signs that had been included in the 2000 MUTCD (2003 MUTCD Section 2B.25)</del>  | <del>December 22, 2013 (b)</del>   |
| 2B.40                        | ONE WAY Signs (R6-1, R6-2)   | New requirements in the 2009 MUTCD for the number and locations of ONE WAY signs <del>(see Paragraphs 4, 9, and 10)</del>  | December 31, 2019  |
| <del>2B.55</del>             | <del>Photo-Enforced Signs and Plaques (R10-18, R10-19P, R10-19aP)</del>                      | <del>New signs (2003 MUTCD Section 2B.45) (*)</del>  | <del>December 22, 2013 (b)</del>   |



# No Compliance Dates??

- Agencies should upgrade as part of a systematic process
- Agencies can decide to defer upgrading in some situations until non-complying devices wear out, are damaged, destroyed, or replaced

## Section 2A.08 Revisions ??

- Assessment or management method still required, but compliance date extended until 2 years following adoption of new rule
- Only applies to regulatory and warning signs
- Replacement of any sign not meeting min. retro-reflectivity standards still required, but no specific compliance dates



# Important Possible Revisions

- Part 2 – Signs
- Part 6 – Temporary Traffic Control
- Part 7 – Traffic Control for School Areas
- Part 8 – Traffic Control for Railroad and Light Rail Transit Grade Crossings



## Section 2A.08

# Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity

- **“Standard:**  
**Public agencies or officials having jurisdiction shall use an assessment or management method that is designed to maintain sign retroreflectivity at or above the minimum levels in Table 2A-3”**

~~Compliance Date: January 22, 2012 (2003 MUTCD)??~~

(Possible extension of compliance date)

**2009 MUTCD Table 2A.3  
Minimum Maintained Retroreflectivity Levels**

| Sign Color                            | Sheeting Type (ASTM D4956-04) ① |                 |              |                               | Additional Criteria |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                       | Beaded Sheeting                 |                 |              | Prismatic Sheeting            |                     |
|                                       | I                               | II              | III          | III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X |                     |
| White on Green                        | W*<br>G ≥ 7                     | W*<br>G ≥ 15    | W*<br>G ≥ 25 | W ≥ 250; G ≥ 25               | Overhead            |
|                                       | W*<br>G ≥ 7                     | W ≥ 120; G ≥ 15 |              |                               | Ground-mounted      |
| Black on Yellow or<br>Black on Orange | Y*; O*                          | Y ≥ 50; O ≥ 50  |              |                               | ②                   |
|                                       | Y*; O*                          | Y ≥ 75; O ≥ 75  |              |                               | ③                   |
| White on Red                          | W ≥ 35; R ≥ 7                   |                 |              |                               | ④                   |
| Black on White                        | W ≥ 50                          |                 |              |                               | —                   |

① The minimum maintained retroreflectivity levels shown in this table are in units of cd/lx/m<sup>2</sup> measured at an observation angle of 0.2° and an entrance angle of -4.0°.

② For text and fine symbol signs measuring at least 1200 mm (48 in) and for all sizes of bold symbol signs

③ For text and fine symbol signs measuring less than 1200 mm (48 in)

④ Minimum Sign Contrast Ratio ≥ 3:1 (white retroreflectivity ÷ red retroreflectivity)

\* This sheeting type should not be used for this color for this application.

## 2009 MUTCD Language

“...One or more of the following assessment or management methods should be used...”

- Visual Nighttime Inspection
  - Calibration Signs
  - Comparison Panels
  - Consistent Parameters
- Measured Sign Retro
- Expected Sign Life
- Blanket Replacement
- Control Signs
- Future Method Based On Engr. Study
- Combination Of Any

# Minimum Levels

- **Replacement of regulatory, warning, and post mounted guide signs (except street name signs) that are identified using the assessment or management method as failing to meet the established minimum levels.**

~~Compliance Date: January 22, 2015~~  
(2003 MUTCD) ??



## Minimum Levels

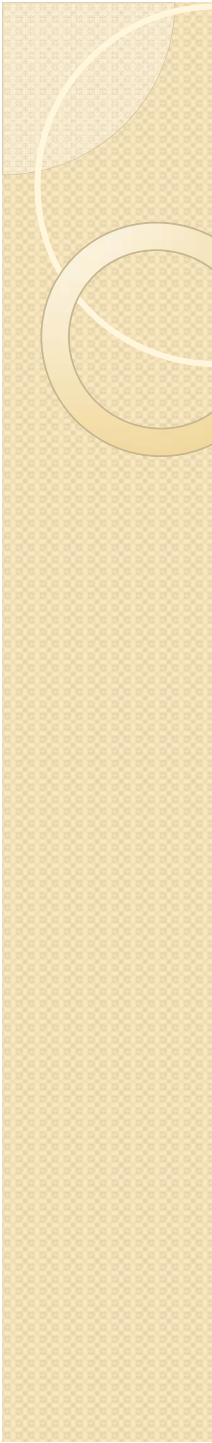
- **Replacement of street name signs and overhead guide signs that are identified using the assessment or management method as failing to meet the established minimum levels.**

~~Compliance Date: January 22, 2018~~  
(2003 MUTCD)??



## Bottom Line (for now)

- No revisions have been approved yet
- Compliance with all current requirements will still apply, even if proposed rule is adopted, only the compliance date would change



Will Address Other Possible  
Compliance Dates Changes  
Throughout the Day

**QUESTIONS ???**