CHAPTER 2I. GENERAL SERVICE SIGNS

Section 2I.01 Sizes of General Service Signs

Standard:

01 **Except as provided in Section 2A.07, the sizes of General Service signs that have a standardized design shall be as shown in Table 2I-1.**

Support:

02 Section 2A.07 contains information regarding the applicability of the various columns in Table 2I-1.

Option:

03 Signs larger than those shown in Table 2I-1 may be used (see Section 2A.07).

Section 2I.02 General Service Signs for Conventional Roads

Support:

01 On conventional roads, commercial services such as gas, food, and lodging generally are within sight and are available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. Consequently, on this class of road there usually is no need for special signs calling attention to these services. Moreover, General Service signing is usually not needed in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement assistance, tourist information centers, and camping.

Option:

02 General Service signs (see Figure 2I-1) may be used on conventional roads where such services are infrequent and are found only on an intersecting highway or crossroad.

Standard:

03 **All General Service signs and supplemental sign panels shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.**

Guidance:

04 *General Service signs should be installed at a suitable distance in advance of the turn-off point or intersecting highway.*

05 *States that elect to provide General Service signing should establish a statewide policy or warrant for its use, and criteria for the availability of services. Local jurisdictions electing to use such signing should follow State policy for the sake of uniformity.*

Option:

06 Individual States may sign for whatever alternative fuels are available at appropriate locations.

Standard:

07 **To be eligible for an EV Charging General Service sign on a conventional road, the EV chargers provided shall meet the criteria for Direct Current Fast Chargers provided in 23 CFR 680.106 and be in continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week.**

08 **General Service signs, if used at intersections, shall be accompanied by a directional message.**

Option:

09 The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary plaques (see Figure 2I-1) with white arrows on blue backgrounds may be used with General Service symbol signs to create a General Service directional assembly.

10 The General Service sign legends may be either symbols or word messages.

Standard:

11 **Symbols and word message General Service legends shall not be intermixed on the same sign.**

12 **The Pharmacy (D9-20) sign shall only be used to indicate the availability of a pharmacy that is open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and that is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system. The D9-20 sign shall have a 24 HR (D9-20aP) plaque mounted below it.**

13 **Use of the Hospital (D9-2) sign or the HOSPITAL (D9-13aP) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) shall be limited to facilities that operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.**

Option:

14 The Emergency Medical Services (D9-13) sign (see Figure 2I-1 and Paragraph 20 of this Section) may be used for facilities that provide emergency medical care but do not operate on a full-time basis.

Support:

15 Formats for displaying different combinations of these services are described in Section 2I.03.

Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 1 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Rest Area Advance	D5-1	2I.05	78 x 36*	132 x 60* (F) 114x 48* (E)
Rest Area Advance Direction	D5-1a	2I.05	78 x 36*	132 x 60* (F) 114 x 48* (E)
Rest Area Entrance Direction	D5-2	2I.05	78 x 36*	132 x 66* (F) 114 x 60 (E)
Rest Area Gore	D5-2a	2I.05	42 x 48*	78 x 78* (F) 66 x 66* (E)
Rest Area Directional	D5-5	2I.05	42 x 48*	—
Next Rest Area	D5-6	2I.05	78 x 54*	132 x 78* (F) 108 x 66* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center Advance	D5-7	2I.08	90 x 72*	156 x 108* (F) 132 x 96* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center Advance Direction	D5-7a	2I.08	90 x 72*	156 x 108* (F) 132 x 96* (E)
Rest Area Tourist Info Center Entrance Direction	D5-8	2I.08	84 x 72*	138 x 108* (F) 120 x 96* (E)
Parking Area Advance	D5-9	2I.05	96 x 36*	162 x 60* (F) 138 x 48* (E)
Parking Area Entrance Direction	D5-9a	2I.05	96 x 36*	162 x 60* (F) 138 x 54* (E)
Parking Area Gore	D5-9b	2I.05	60 x 48*	108 x 78* (F) 84 x 66* (E)
Picnic Area (Roadside Table, Roadside Park) Advance	D5-10	2I.05	84 x 36*	144 x 60* (F) 120 x 48* (E)
Picnic Area (Roadside Table, Roadside Park) Entrance Direction	D5-10a	2I.05	84 x 36*	144 x 60* (F) 120 x 54* (E)
Picnic Area (Roadside Table, Roadside Park) Gore	D5-10b	2I.05	54 x 48*	84 x 78* (F) 72 x 66* (E)
Scenic Area (Scenic View, Scenic Overlook) Advance	D5-11	2I.05	84 x 36*	144 x 60* (F) 120 x 48* (E)
Scenic Area (Scenic View, Scenic Overlook) Entrance Direction	D5-11a	2I.05	84 x 36*	144 x 60* (F) 120 x 54* (E)
Scenic Area (Scenic View, Scenic Overlook) Gore	D5-11b	2I.05	54 x 48*	90 x 78* (F) 78 x 66* (E)
Interstate Oasis	D5-12	2I.04	—	198 x 60 (F) 162 x 48 (E)
Interstate Oasis (plaque)	D5-12aP	2I.04	—	114 x 48
Interstate Oasis Directional	D5-12b	2I.04	—	48 x 36
Brake Check Area Advance	D5-13	2I.06	96 x 54	132 x 66
Brake Check Area Entrance Direction	D5-14	2I.06	96 x 54	132 x 78
Chain-Up Area Advance	D5-15	2I.07	72 x 54	102 x 66
Chain-Up Area Entrance Direction	D5-16	2I.07	72 x 54	102 x 78
Telephone	D9-1	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Hospital	D9-2	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Camping	D9-3	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Litter Container	D9-4	2I.02	24 x 30	36 x 48
International Symbol of Accessibility	D9-6	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Van Accessible (plaque)	D9-6P	2I.02	18 x 9	—
Gas	D9-7	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Food	D9-8	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Lodging	D9-9	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Tourist Information	D9-10	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Diesel Fuel	D9-11	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Alternative Fuel - Compressed Natural Gas	D9-11a	2I.02	24 x 24***	30 x 30***
Electric Vehicle Charging	D9-11b	2I.02	24 x 24***	30 x 30***
Electric Vehicle Charging (plaque)	D9-11bP	2I.02	24 x 18	30 x 24
Alternative Fuel - Ethanol	D9-11c	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30

Table 2I-1. General Service Sign and Plaque Sizes (Sheet 2 of 2)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Conventional Road	Freeway or Expressway
Alternative Fuel - Liquefied Natural Gas	D9-11d	2I.02	24 x 24***	30 x 30***
Alternative Fuel - Liquefied Petroleum Gas	D9-11e	2I.02	24 x 24***	30 x 30***
Alternative Fuel - Hydrogen	D9-11f	2I.02	24 x 24***	30 x 30***
Alternative Fuel - Biofuel	D9-11g	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
RV Sanitary Station	D9-12	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Emergency Medical Services	D9-13	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Hospital (plaque)	D9-13aP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 12
Ambulance Station (plaque)	D9-13bP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 15
Emergency Medical Care (plaque)	D9-13cP	2I.02	24 x 18	30 x 24
Trauma Center (plaque)	D9-13dP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 15
Police	D9-14	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Truck Parking	D9-16	2I.03	24 x 24	30 x 30
Truck External Power (plaque)	D9-16aP	2I.03	24 x 24	30 x 30
Truck Parking Availability - Exit Number	D9-16b	2I.15	Varies x 144	Varies x 144
Truck Parking Availability - Distance	D9-16c	2I.15	Varies x 144	Varies x 144
Truck Parking Availability - Rest Area	D9-16d	2I.15	Varies x Varies	Varies x Varies
Truck Parking Availability - Combined	D9-16e	2I.15	Varies x Varies	Varies x Varies
Next Services Advance (plaque)	D9-17P	2I.02	72 x 24	114 x 30
General Services (up to 6 symbols) with Exit Number	D9-18	2I.03	108 x 84	132 x 114 (F) 132 x 108 (E)
General Services with Exit Number	D9-18a	2I.03	72 x 60	132 x 108** (F) 102 x 84** (E)
General Services (up to 6 symbols) with Action Message	D9-18b	2I.03	108 x 84	132 x 114 (F) 132 x 108 (E)
General Services with Action Message	D9-18c	2I.03	72 x 60**	132 x 108** (F) 102 x 84** (E)
Rural Interchange General Services (up to 3 symbols) (plaque)	D9-18dP	2I.03	—	120 x 36
Rural Interchange General Services (1 line) (plaque)	D9-18eP	2I.03	—	Varies x 24
Rural Interchange General Services (2 line) (plaque)	D9-18fP	2I.03	—	Varies x 42
Pharmacy	D9-20	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
24-Hour (plaque)	D9-20aP	2I.02	24 x 12	30 x 12
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf	D9-21	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Wireless Internet	D9-22	2I.02	24 x 24	30 x 30
Radio - Weather Information	D12-1	2I.09	84 x 48	132 x 84
Radio - Traffic Information	D12-1a	2I.09	96 x 48	120 x 60
Urgent Message When Flashing (plaque)	D12-1bP	2I.09	84 x 30	108 x 36
Carpool Information	D12-2	2I.14	60 x 42	96 x 66
Channel 9 Monitored	D12-3	2I.10	84 x 48	132 x 84
Emergency Call 911	D12-4	2I.11	66 x 30	96 x 48
Travel Info Call 511 (pictograph)	D12-5	2I.12	48 x 60	66 x 72
Travel Info Call 511	D12-5a	2I.12	48 x 36	66 x 48
Roadside Assistance	D12-6	2I.13	60 x 42	78 x 54

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* The size shown is for a sign with a REST AREA, PARKING AREA, PICNIC AREA, SCENIC AREA, and/or TOURIST INFO CENTER legend. The size should be appropriately adjusted if an alternate legend is used.

** The size shown is for a sign with four lines of services. The size should be appropriately adjusted depending on the amount of legend displayed.

*** The Standard Highway Signs publication contains layouts for the 18 x 18-inch and 24 x 24-inch alternative fuels symbol signs mounted with the Alternative Fuels Corridor sign in accordance with Section 2H.14.

Notes: 1. Larger signs may be used when appropriate.
2. Dimensions in inches are shown as width x height
3. Where two sizes are shown, the larger size is for freeways (F) and the smaller size is for expressways (E)

Figure 2I-1. General Service Signs and Plaques



D9-1
Telephone



D9-2
Hospital



D9-3
Camping



D9-4
Litter Container



D9-6
International Symbol of Accessibility



D9-6P



D9-7
Gas



D9-8
Food



D9-9
Lodging



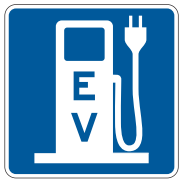
D9-10
Tourist Information



D9-11
Diesel Fuel



D9-11a
Alternative Fuel-Compressed Natural Gas



D9-11b
Electric Vehicle Charging



D9-11bP
Electric Vehicle Charging



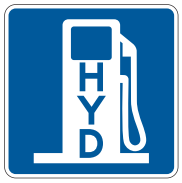
D9-11c
Alternative Fuel-Ethanol



D9-11d
Alternative Fuel-Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)



D9-11e
Alternative Fuel-Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)



D9-11f
Alternative Fuel-Hydrogen Fuel (HYD)

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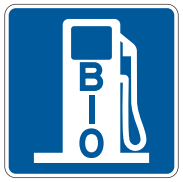

D9-11g
Alternative Fuel-Biofuel (BIO)



D9-12
RV Sanitary Station



D9-13
Emergency Medical Services



D9-13aP
Hospital



D9-13bP
Ambulance Station



D9-13cP
Emergency Medical Care



D9-13dP
Trauma Center

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D9-14
Police



D9-16
Truck Parking



D9-16aP
Truck External Power



D9-20
Pharmacy



D9-20aP
24-Hour



D9-21
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf



D9-22
Wireless Internet

Advance Turn and Directional Arrow auxiliary plaques for use with General Service signs



M5-1P



M5-2P



M5-3P



M6-1P



M6-2P



M6-3P



Example of directional assembly

Option:

16 If the distance to the next point at which services are available is 10 miles or more, a Next Services Advance (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the General Service sign.

17 The International Symbol of Accessibility (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used beneath General Service signs where paved ramps and restroom facilities accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities are provided.

Figure 2I-2. Example of Next Services Plaque



D9-17P

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Guidance:

18 *When the D9-6 sign is used in accordance with Paragraph 16 of this Section, and van-accessible parking is available at the facility, a VAN ACCESSIBLE (D9-6P) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) should be mounted below the D9-6 sign.*

Option:

19 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used as needed to indicate the availability of facilities designed for the use of dumping wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

20 The Litter Container (D9-4) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be placed in advance of roadside turn-outs or rest areas, unless it distracts the driver's attention from other more important regulatory, warning, or directional signs.

21 The Emergency Medical Services (D9-13) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to identify medical service facilities that have been included in the Emergency Medical Services system under a signing policy developed by the State and/or local highway agency.

Standard:

22 **The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall not be used to identify services other than qualified hospitals, ambulance stations, and qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers. If used, the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign shall be supplemented by a sign or plaque, as provided in Paragraph 22 of this Section, identifying the type of service provided.**

Option:

23 The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may be used above the HOSPITAL (D9-13aP) plaque or above a plaque with the legend AMBULANCE STATION (D9-13bP), EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE (D9-13cP), or TRAUMA CENTER (D9-13dP). The Emergency Medical Services symbol sign may also be used to supplement Telephone (D9-1), Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3) (see Figure 2I-8), or POLICE (D9-14) signs.

Standard:

24 **The legend EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE shall not be used for services other than qualified free-standing emergency medical treatment centers.**

Guidance:

25 *Each State should develop a policy for the implementation of the Emergency Medical Services symbol sign.*

26 *The State should consider the following guidelines in the preparation of its policy:*

A. AMBULANCE
1. *24-hour service, 7 days per week.*
2. *Staffed by two State-certified persons trained at least to the basic level.*
3. *Vehicular communications with a hospital emergency department.*
4. *Operator should have successfully completed an emergency-vehicle operator training course.*

B. HOSPITAL
1. *24-hour service, 7 days per week.*
2. *Emergency department facilities with a physician (or emergency care nurse on duty within the emergency department with a physician on call) trained in emergency medical procedures on duty.*
3. *Licensed or approved for definitive medical care by an appropriate State authority.*
4. *Equipped for radio voice communications with ambulances and other hospitals.*

C. Channel 9 Monitored
1. *Provided by either professional or volunteer monitors.*
2. *Available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.*
3. *The service should be endorsed, sponsored, or controlled by an appropriate government authority to guarantee the level of monitoring.*

Section 2I.03 General Service Signs for Freeways and Expressways

Support:

01 General Service (D9-18 series) signs (see Figure 2I-3) are generally not appropriate at major interchanges (see definition in Section 2E.11) and in urban areas.

Standard:

02 **General Service signs shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Letter and numeral sizes shall comply with the minimum requirements of Tables 2E-2 through 2E-5. All approved symbols shall be permitted as alternatives to word messages, but symbols and word service messages shall not be intermixed on the same sign. If the services are not visible from the ramp of a single-exit interchange, the service signing shall be repeated in smaller size at the intersection of the exit ramp and the crossroad. Such service signs shall use arrows to indicate the direction to the services.**

Figure 2I-3. Examples of General Service Signs with and without Exit Numbering



D9-18



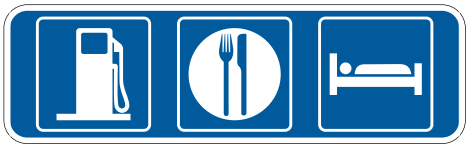
D9-18a



D9-18b



D9-18c



D9-18dP



D9-18eP



D9-18fP

Guidance:

03 *Where General Service signs are used along routes with exit numbering, the General Service sign should include the exit number within the sign face as shown in Figure 2I-3.*

04 *Distance to services should be displayed on General Service signs along the exit ramp where distances are more than 1 mile from the ramp intersection with the crossroad.*

05 *General Service signing should only be provided at locations where the road user can return to the freeway or expressway and continue in the same direction of travel.*

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06 *Only services that fulfill the needs of the road user should be displayed on General Service signs. If State or local agencies elect to provide General Service signing, there should be a statewide policy for such signing and criteria for the eligibility and availability of the various types of services. The criteria should consider the following:*

- *A. Gas, diesel, and/or alternative fuels, except for electric vehicle (EV) charging, if all of the following are available:*
  - *1. Vehicle services such as gas, oil, and water;*
  - *2. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water; and*
  - *3. Continuous operations at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week.*
- *B. Food if all of the following are available:*
  - *1. Licensing or approval, where required;*
  - *2. Continuous operation to serve at least two meals per day, at least 6 days per week; and*
  - *3. Modern sanitary facilities.*
- *C. Lodging if all of the following are available:*
  - *1. Licensing or approval, where required;*
  - *2. Adequate sleeping accommodations; and*
  - *3. Modern sanitary facilities.*
- *D. Public telephone if continuous operation, 7 days per week is available.*
- *E. Hospital if continuous emergency care capability, with a physician on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week is available. A physician on duty would include the following criteria and should be signed in accordance with the priority as follows:*
  - *1. Physician on duty within the emergency department;*
  - *2. Registered nurse on duty within the emergency department, with a physician in the hospital on call; or*
  - *3. Registered nurse on duty within the emergency department, with a physician on call from office or home.*
- *F. 24-Hour Pharmacy if a pharmacy is open, with a State-licensed pharmacist present and on duty, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and is located within 3 miles of an interchange on the Federal-aid system.*
- *G. Camping if all of the following are available:*
  - *1. Licensing or approval, where required;*
  - *2. Adequate parking accommodations; and*
  - *3. Modern sanitary facilities and drinking water.*

Standard:

07 **To be eligible for an EV Charging General Service sign on freeways and expressways, the EV chargers provided shall meet the criteria for Direct Current Fast Chargers provided in 23 CFR 680.106 and be in continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per week.**

Support:

08 Motorist expectations for facilities providing alternative fuels, such as EV Charging, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, and hydrogen, vary considerably and alternative fuel vehicles might have different needs than conventional fuel vehicles.

Guidance:

09 *The policy criteria for alternative fuel vehicles should take into account the needs, convenience, and safety of alternative fuel vehicle users (see Section 2H.14).*

Standard:

10 **For any service that is operated on a seasonal basis only, the General Service signs shall be removed or covered during periods when the service is not available.**

11 **The General Service signs shall be mounted in an effective location, between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign, in advance of the exit leading to the available services.**

Option:

12 If the distance to the next point where services are available is greater than 10 miles, a Next Services Advance (D9-17P) plaque (see Figure 2I-2) may be installed below the Exit Direction sign.

Standard:

13 **Signs for services shall comply with the format for General Service signs (see Section 2I.02) and as provided in this Manual. No more than six general road user services shall be displayed on one sign, which includes any appended supplemental signs or plaques. General Service signs shall display the legends for one or more of the following services: Food, Gas, EV Charging, Lodging, Camping, Phone, Hospital, 24-Hour Pharmacy, or Tourist Information.**

14 **The qualified services available shall be displayed at specific locations on the sign.**

Guidance:

15 *To provide for future services that might become available, the sign space normally reserved for a given service symbol or word should be left blank when that service is not present.*

16 *The standard display of word messages should be FOOD and PHONE in that order on the top line, and GAS and LODGING on the second line. If used, HOSPITAL, 24-HOUR PHARMACY, and CAMPING should be on separate lines (see Figure 2I-3).*

Option:

17 Signing for EV Charging, DIESEL, LP-GAS, or other alternative fuel services may be substituted for any of the general services or appended to such signs. The International Symbol of Accessibility (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used for facilities that qualify.

Guidance:

18 *When symbols are used for the road user services, they should be displayed as follows:*

A. Six services:
1. Top row—GAS, FOOD, and LODGING
2. Bottom row—PHONE, HOSPITAL, and CAMPING

B. Four services:
1. Top row—GAS and FOOD
2. Bottom row—LODGING and PHONE

C. Three services:
1. Top row—GAS, FOOD, and LODGING

Option:

19 Substitutions of other services for any of the services described in Paragraph 18 of this Section may be made by placing the substitution in the lower right (four or six services) or extreme right (three services) portion of the sign. An action message or an interchange exit number may be used for symbol signs in the same manner as they are used for word message signs. The Diesel Fuel (D9-11) symbol or the LP-GAS (D9-11e) symbol may be substituted for the symbol representing fuel or appended to such assemblies. The Tourist Information (D9-10) or the 24-Hour Pharmacy (D9-20 and D9-20aP) symbol may be substituted on any of the configurations provided in Paragraph 18 of this Section. Rev. 1

20 At rural interchange areas where limited road user services are available and where it is unlikely that additional services will be provided within the near future, a Rural Interchange General Services (D9-18dP, D9-18eP, or D9-18fP) plaque displaying one to three services (words or symbols) may be mounted below a post-mounted Interchange Advance guide sign.

Standard:

21 **If more than three services become available at rural interchange areas where limited road user services were anticipated, the appended supplemental plaque described in Paragraph 20 of this Section shall be removed and replaced with an independently-mounted General Service sign as described in this Section.**

Option:

22 A separate Telephone Service (D9-1) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be installed if telephone facilities are located adjacent to the route at places where public telephones would not normally be expected.

23 The Recreational Vehicle Sanitary Station (D9-12) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used as needed to indicate the availability of facilities designed for dumping wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

24 In some locations, signs may be used to indicate that services are not available.

25 A separate Truck Parking (D9-16) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be mounted below the other general road user services to direct truck drivers to designated parking areas.

26 A TRUCK EXTERNAL POWER (D9-16aP) plaque (see Figure 2I-1) may be mounted below the Truck Parking (D9-16) sign to indicate the availability of receptacles providing power for electrical devices within the truck. Rev. 1

Section 2I.04 Interstate Oasis Signing (D5-12 Series)

Support:

01 An Interstate Oasis is a facility near an Interstate highway that provides products and services to the public, 24-hour access to public restrooms, and parking for automobiles and heavy trucks. Interstate Oasis guide signs inform road users on Interstate highways as to the presence of an Interstate Oasis at an interchange and which businesses have been designated by the State within which they are traveling as having met the eligibility criteria of the Federal Highway Administration's Interstate Oasis policy. The FHWA's policy, which is dated October 18, 2006, and which can be viewed on the MUTCD Web site at http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-policy.htm, provides a more detailed definition of an Interstate Oasis and specifies the eligibility criteria for an Interstate Oasis designation in compliance with the requirements of laws enacted by Congress.

Guidance:

02 *If a State elects to provide or allow Interstate Oasis signing (see Figure 2I-4), there should be a statewide policy, program, procedures, and criteria for the designation and signing of a facility as an Interstate Oasis that complies with the FHWA's policy and with the provisions of this Section.*

03 *States electing to provide or allow Interstate Oasis signing should use the following signing practices on the freeway for any given exit to identify the availability of a designated Interstate Oasis:*

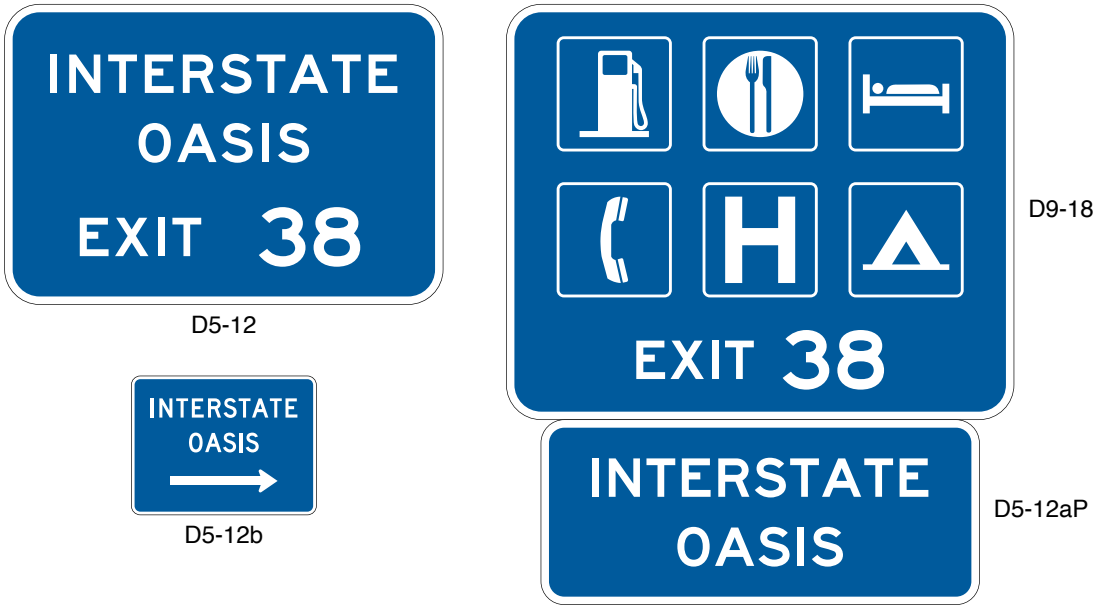
- *A. If adequate sign spacing allows, a separate Interstate Oasis (D5-12) sign should be installed in an effective location with spacing of at least 800 feet from other adjacent guide signs, including any Specific Service signs. This Interstate Oasis sign should be located upstream from the Advance Guide sign or between the Advance Guide sign and the Exit Direction sign for the exit leading to the Interstate Oasis. The Interstate Oasis sign should display the words INTERSTATE OASIS and the exit number or, for an unnumbered interchange, an action message such as NEXT RIGHT.*
- *B. If the spacing of the other guide signs precludes the use of a separate sign as described in Item A of this Paragraph, an INTERSTATE OASIS (D5-12aP) supplemental plaque should be mounted below an existing D9-18 series General Service sign for the interchange.*

Option:

04 If Specific Service signing is provided at the interchange, a business designated as an Interstate Oasis and having a business identification sign panel on the Food and/or Gas Specific Service signs may use the bottom portion of the business identification sign panel to display the word OASIS.

05 If Specific Service signing is not provided at the interchange, the name of the business designated as an Interstate Oasis may be displayed on a business identification sign panel, in compliance with the provisions of Sections 2J.03 through 2J.05, below the INTERSTATE OASIS legend on the D5-12 sign.

Figure 2I-4. Examples of Interstate Oasis Signs and Plaques



Standard:

06 **If Specific Service signs containing the OASIS legend as a part of the business identification sign panel(s) are not used on the ramp and if the Interstate Oasis is not clearly visible and identifiable from the exit ramp, an Interstate Oasis Directional (D5-12b) sign shall be provided on the exit ramp to indicate the direction and distance to the Interstate Oasis.**

07 **If needed, additional trailblazer guide signs shall be used along the crossroad to guide road users to an Interstate Oasis.**

Section 2I.05 Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs (D5-1 through D5-11 Series)

Standard:

01 **Rest Area signs (see Figure 2I-5) shall have a retroreflective white legend and border on a blue background.**

02 **Signs that include the legend REST AREA shall be used only where parking and restroom facilities are available.**

Guidance:

03 *A roadside area that does not contain restroom facilities should be signed to indicate the major road user service that is provided. For example, the sign legends for an area with only parking should use the words PARKING AREA (D5-9 series) instead of REST AREA. The sign legends for an area with only picnic tables and parking should use words such as PICNIC AREA, ROADSIDE TABLE, or ROADSIDE PARK (D5-10 series) instead of REST AREA.*

04 *Rest areas that have tourist information and welcome centers should be signed as provided in Section 2I.08.*

05 *Scenic area signing should be consistent with that provided for rest areas, except that the legends should use words such as SCENIC AREA, SCENIC VIEW, or SCENIC OVERLOOK (D5-11 series) instead of REST AREA.*

06 *If a rest area or other roadside area is provided on a conventional road, a D5-1 and/or D5-1a sign should be installed in advance of the rest area or other roadside area to permit the driver to reduce speed in preparation for leaving the highway. A D5-5 sign (or a D5-2 sign if an exit ramp is provided) should be installed at the turn-off point where the driver needs to leave the highway to access the rest area or other roadside area.*

07 *If a rest area or other roadside area is provided on a freeway or expressway, a D5-1 sign should be placed 1 mile and/or 2 miles in advance of the rest area.*

Standard:

08 **A D5-2a sign shall be placed at the rest area or other roadside area exit gore.**

Option:

09 A D5-1a sign may be placed between the D5-1 sign and the exit gore on a freeway or expressway. A second D5-1 sign may be used in place of the D5-1a sign with a distance to the nearest ½ or ¼ mile displayed as a fraction rather than a decimal for distances of less than 1 mile.

10 To provide the road user with information on the location of succeeding rest areas, a Next Rest Area (D5-6) sign (see Figure 2I-5) may be installed independently or as a supplemental sign mounted below one of the REST AREA advance guide signs.

Standard:

11 **All signs on freeways and expressways for rest and other roadside areas shall have letter and numeral sizes that comply with the minimum requirements of Tables 2E-2 through 2E-5. The sizes for General Service signs that have standardized designs shall be as shown in Table 2I-1.**

Option:

12 If the rest area has facilities for persons with disabilities (see Section 2I.02), the International Symbol of Accessibility (D9-6) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be placed with or beneath an advance guide sign for the rest area.

13 If telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) are available at the rest area, the TDD (D9-21) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to supplement the advance guide signs for the rest area.

14 If wireless Internet services are available at the rest area, the Wireless Internet (D9-22) symbol sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be used to supplement the advance guide signs for the rest area.

Section 2I.06 Brake Check Area Signs (D5-13 and D5-14)

Guidance:

01 *If an area has been provided for drivers to pull off of the roadway to check the brakes on their vehicle, a Brake Check Area Advance (D5-13) sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be installed in advance of the brake check area, and a D5-14 sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be placed at the entrance to the brake check area.*

Figure 2I-5. Rest Area and Other Roadside Area Signs

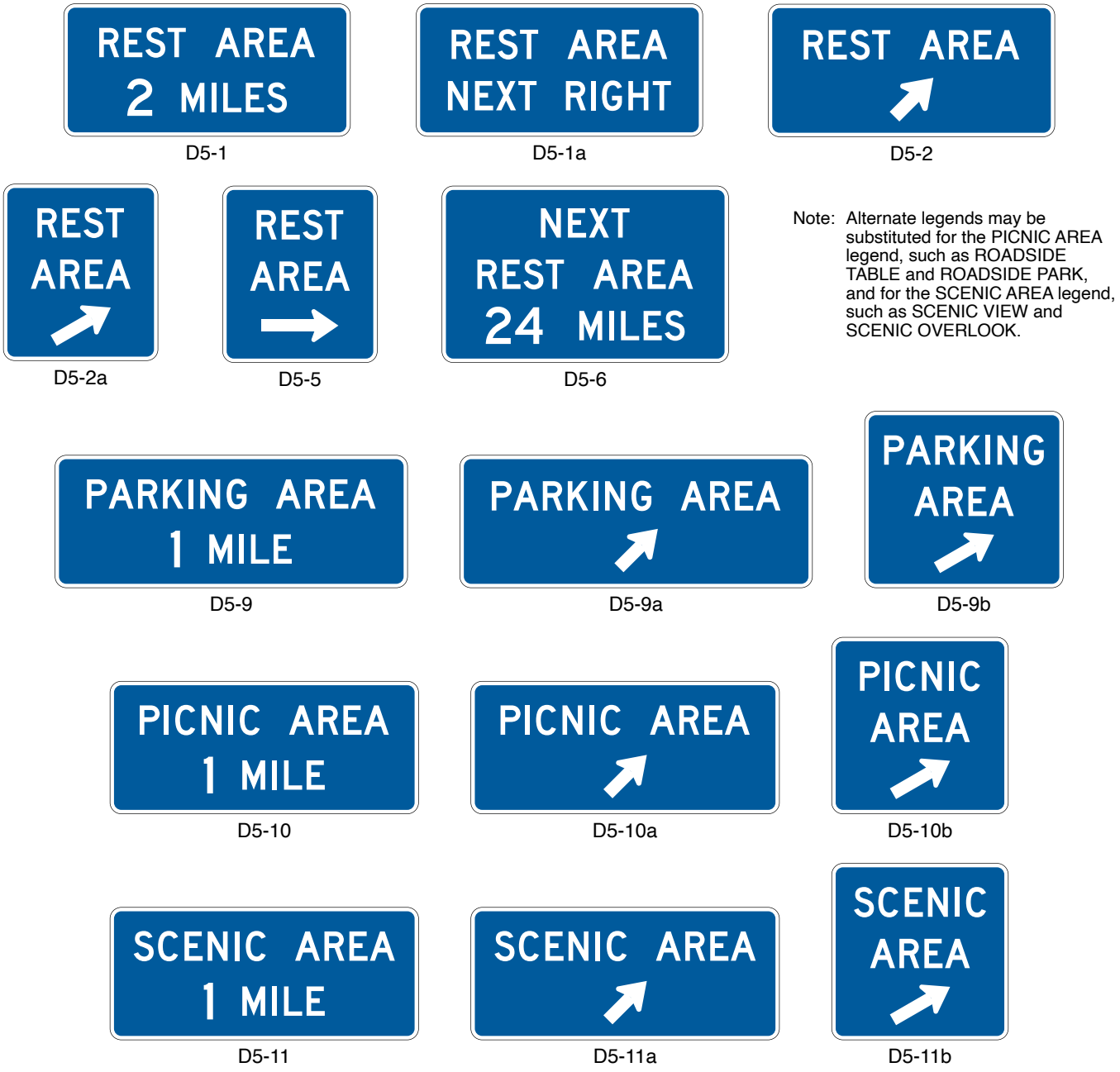
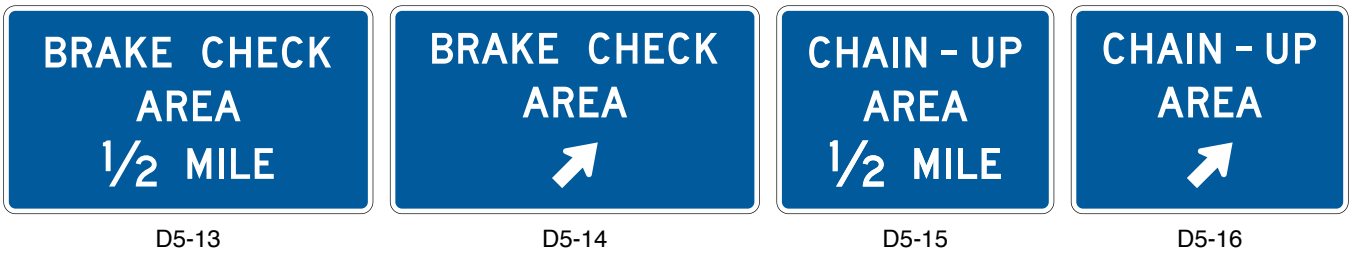


Figure 2I-6. Brake Check Area and Chain-Up Area Signs



Section 2I.07 Chain-Up Area Signs (D5-15 and D5-16)

Guidance:

01 *If an area has been provided for drivers to pull off of the roadway to install chains on their tires, a Chain-Up Area Advance (D5-15) sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be installed in advance of the chain-up area, and a D5-16 sign (see Figure 2I-6) should be placed at the entrance to the chain-up area.*

Section 2I.08 Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs (D5-7 Series and D5-8)

Support:

01 Tourist information and welcome centers have been constructed within rest areas on freeways and expressways and are operated by either a State or a private organization. Others have been located within close proximity to these facilities and operated by civic clubs, chambers of commerce, or private enterprise.

Guidance:

02 *The number of supplemental sign panels installed with Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs should be limited to three so as not to impose an undue informational load on the road user.*

Standard:

03 **Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs (see Figure 2I-7) shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Continuously staffed or unstaffed operation at least 8 hours per day, 7 days per week, shall be required.**

04 **If operated only on a seasonal basis, the Tourist Information or Welcome Center signs shall be removed or covered during the off seasons.**

Guidance:

05 *For freeway or expressway rest area locations that also serve as tourist information or welcome centers, the following signing criteria should be used:*

- *A. The locations for tourist information and welcome center Advance Guide, Exit Direction, and Exit Gore signs should meet the General Service signing requirements described in Section 2I.03.*
- *B. If the signing for the tourist information or welcome center is to be accomplished in conjunction with the initial signing for the rest areas, the message on the Rest Area Tourist Info Center Advance (D5-7) sign should be REST AREA, TOURIST INFO CENTER, XX MILES or REST AREA, STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER XX MILES. On the Rest Area Tourist Info Center Entrance Direction (D5-8) sign the message should be REST AREA, TOURIST INFO CENTER with a diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow (or NEXT RIGHT), or REST AREA, STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER with a diagonally upward-pointing directional arrow (or NEXT RIGHT).*
- *C. If the initial rest area Advance Guide and Exit Direction signing is in place, these signs should include, on supplemental signs, the legend TOURIST INFO CENTER or STATE NAME (optional), WELCOME CENTER.*
- *D. The Exit Gore sign should contain only the legend REST AREA with the arrow and should not be supplemented with any legend pertaining to the tourist information center or welcome center.*

Option:

06 As an alternative to the supplemental TOURIST INFO CENTER legend, the Tourist Information (D9-10) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be appended beneath the REST AREA advance guide sign.

Figure 2I-7. Examples of Tourist Information and Welcome Center Signs



D5-7 D5-7a D5-8

Note: Alternate legends may be substituted for the TOURIST INFO CENTER legend, such as WELCOME CENTER and (State Name) WELCOME CENTER.

07 The name of the State or local jurisdiction may appear on the Advance Guide and Exit Direction tourist information/welcome center signs if the jurisdiction controls the operation of the tourist information or welcome center and the center meets the operating criteria set forth in this Manual and is consistent with State policies.

Guidance:

08 *For tourist information centers that are located off the freeway or expressway facility, additional signing criteria should be as follows:*

A. Each State should adopt a policy establishing the maximum distance that a tourist information center can be located from the interchange in order to be included on official signs.
B. The location of signing should be in accordance with requirements pertaining to General Service signing (see Section 2I.03).
C. Signing along the crossroad should be installed to guide the road user from the interchange to the tourist information center and back to the interchange.

Option:

09 As an alternative, the Tourist Information (D9-10) sign (see Figure 2I-1) may be appended to the guide signs for the exit that provides access to the tourist information center. As a second alternative, the Tourist Information sign may be combined with General Service signing.

Section 2I.09 Radio Information Signing (D12-1 Series)

Option:

01 A Radio-Weather Information (D12-1) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be used in areas where difficult driving conditions commonly result from weather systems. Radio-Traffic Information (D12-1a) signs may be used in conjunction with traffic management systems.

Standard:

02 **Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs shall have a white legend and border on a blue background. Only the numerical indication of the radio frequency shall be used to identify a station broadcasting travel-related weather or traffic information. No more than three frequencies shall be displayed on each sign. Only radio stations whose signal will be of value to the road user and who agree to broadcast either of the following two items shall be identified on Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs:**

A. Periodic weather warnings at a rate of at least once every 15 minutes during periods of adverse weather; or
B. Driving condition information (affecting the roadway being traveled) at a rate of at least once every 15 minutes, or when required, during periods of adverse traffic conditions, and when supplied by an official agency having jurisdiction.

03 **If a station to be considered operates only on a seasonal basis, its signs shall be removed or covered during the off season.**

Guidance:

04 *The radio station should have a signal strength to adequately broadcast at least 70 miles along the route. Signs should be spaced as needed for each direction of travel at distances determined by an engineering study. The stations to be included on the signs should be selected in cooperation with the association(s) representing major broadcasting stations in the area to provide: (1) maximum coverage to all road users on both AM and FM frequencies; and (2) consideration of 24 hours per day, 7 days per week broadcast capability.*

Option:

05 The URGENT MESSAGE WHEN FLASHING (D12-1bP) plaque may be mounted below the D12-1 or D12-1a sign if supplemented by Warning Beacons (see Section 4S.03) that flash only when a message related to adverse travel conditions is being broadcast.

06 In roadway rest area locations, a smaller sign using a greater number of radio frequencies, but of the same general design, may be used.

Standard:

07 **Radio-Weather and Radio-Traffic Information signs installed in rest areas shall be positioned such that they are not visible from the main roadway.**

Figure 2I-8. Radio, Telephone, and Carpool Information Signs



D12-1



D12-1a



D12-1bP



D12-2



D12-3



D12-4



D12-5*

*The pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program may be used in place of the 511 pictograph (see Section 2I.12)



D12-5a



D12-6

Section 2I.10 Channel 9 Monitored Sign (D12-3)

Option:

01 A Channel 9 Monitored (D12-3) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be installed as needed. Official public agencies or their designees may be displayed as the monitoring agency on the sign.

Standard:

02 **Only official public agencies or their designee shall be displayed as the monitoring agency on the Channel 9 Monitored sign.**

Section 2I.11 EMERGENCY CALL 911 Sign (D12-4)

Option:

01 An Emergency CALL 911 (D12-4) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be used for cellular telephone communications.

Section 2I.12 TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 Signs (D12-5 and D12-5a)

Option:

01 A TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 (D12-5 or D12-5a) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be installed if a 511 travel information services telephone number is available to road users for obtaining traffic, public transportation, weather, construction, or road condition information.

02 The pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program that is providing the travel information may be displayed in place of the 511 pictograph on the D12-5 sign above the TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 legend.

Standard:

03 **The logo of a commercial entity shall not be incorporated within the TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 signs.**

04 **If the pictograph of the transportation agency or the travel information service or program is used in place of the 511 pictograph on the D12-5 sign (see Paragraph 2 of this Section), the maximum height of the pictograph shall not exceed the height of the 511 pictograph on the standard sign size specified for the roadway classification in Table 2H-1.**

05 **The TRAVEL INFO CALL 511 signs shall have a white legend and border on a blue background.**

Section 2I.13 Roadside Assistance Sign (D12-6)

Option:

01 A Roadside Assistance (D12-6) sign (see Figure 2I-8) displaying the Highway Assistance cellular telephone code designated for that roadway or jurisdiction may be used along a highway that is served by an authorized roadside assistance program with authorized service vehicles and personnel that provide roadside vehicle repair assistance to road users free of charge.

Section 2I.14 Carpool and Ridesharing Signing (D12-2)

Option:

01 In areas having carpool matching services, a Carpool Information (D12-2) sign (see Figure 2I-8) may be provided adjacent to highways with preferential lanes or along any other highway.

02 Carpool Information signs may include an Internet domain name or telephone number of more than four characters within the legend.

Standard:

03 **If a local transit pictograph or carpool symbol is incorporated into the Carpool Information sign, the maximum vertical dimension of the pictograph or symbol shall not exceed 18 inches and the maximum horizontal dimension shall not exceed 30 inches.**

Section 2I.15 Signing for Truck Parking Availability (D9-16b through D9-16e)

Option:

01 General Service signs may be used to display the number of available truck parking spaces at roadside areas such as rest areas, welcome centers, and weigh stations, and at facilities off a highway that are open to the public and provide parking for commercial vehicles 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Standard:

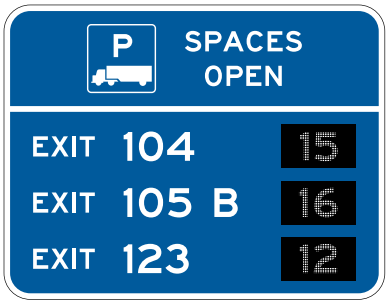
02 **The Truck Parking Availability General Service (D9-16b through D9-16e) signs (see Figure 2I-9) shall include a changeable message element with a white changeable legend on a black opaque background that displays only the number of parking spaces currently available at each location or the legend FULL. The upper section of the sign shall display the Truck Parking (D9-16) symbol sign and the legend SPACES OPEN. The sign shall display the number of available truck parking spaces for no more than three parking facilities. Where two lines of legend, such as the location and a distance, are displayed for a parking facility, not more than two parking facilities shall be displayed on the sign.**

03 **Where the truck parking facility is located off the main highway and is accessed from the crossroad, directional assemblies with the Truck Parking (D9-16) sign shall be installed along the ramp and along crossroads where the route to the facility requires a turn, where it is unclear as to which roadway to follow, or where additional guidance is needed.**

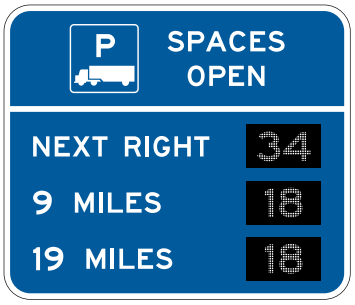
Support:

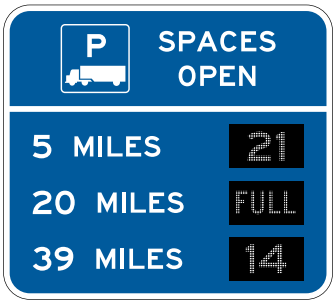
04 Displaying the number of parking spaces available at a facility when the number is low could result in truckers choosing to continue to a distant facility that no longer has available spaces by the time they arrive.

Figure 2I-9. Examples of Truck Parking Availability Signs



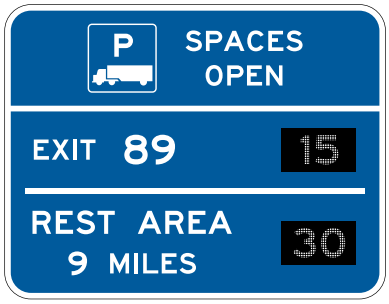
D9-16b
Reference Location Sign
Exit Numbering Method





D9-16c
Unnumbered Exits

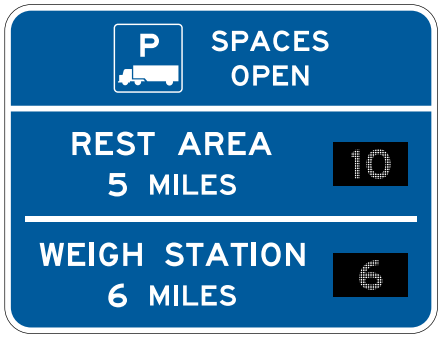


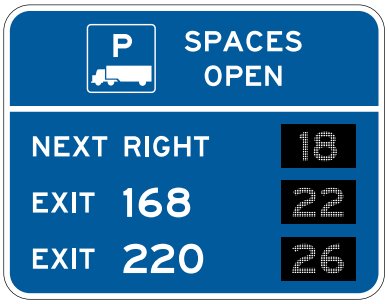






D9-16d
Rest Areas Only





D9-16e
Combined Signing for Roadside Areas
and Off-System Sites

Option:

05 The word FULL in a white legend may be displayed on changeable message elements of a Truck Parking Availability General Service sign when the number of truck parking spaces available at the associated facility reaches a predetermined lower threshold.

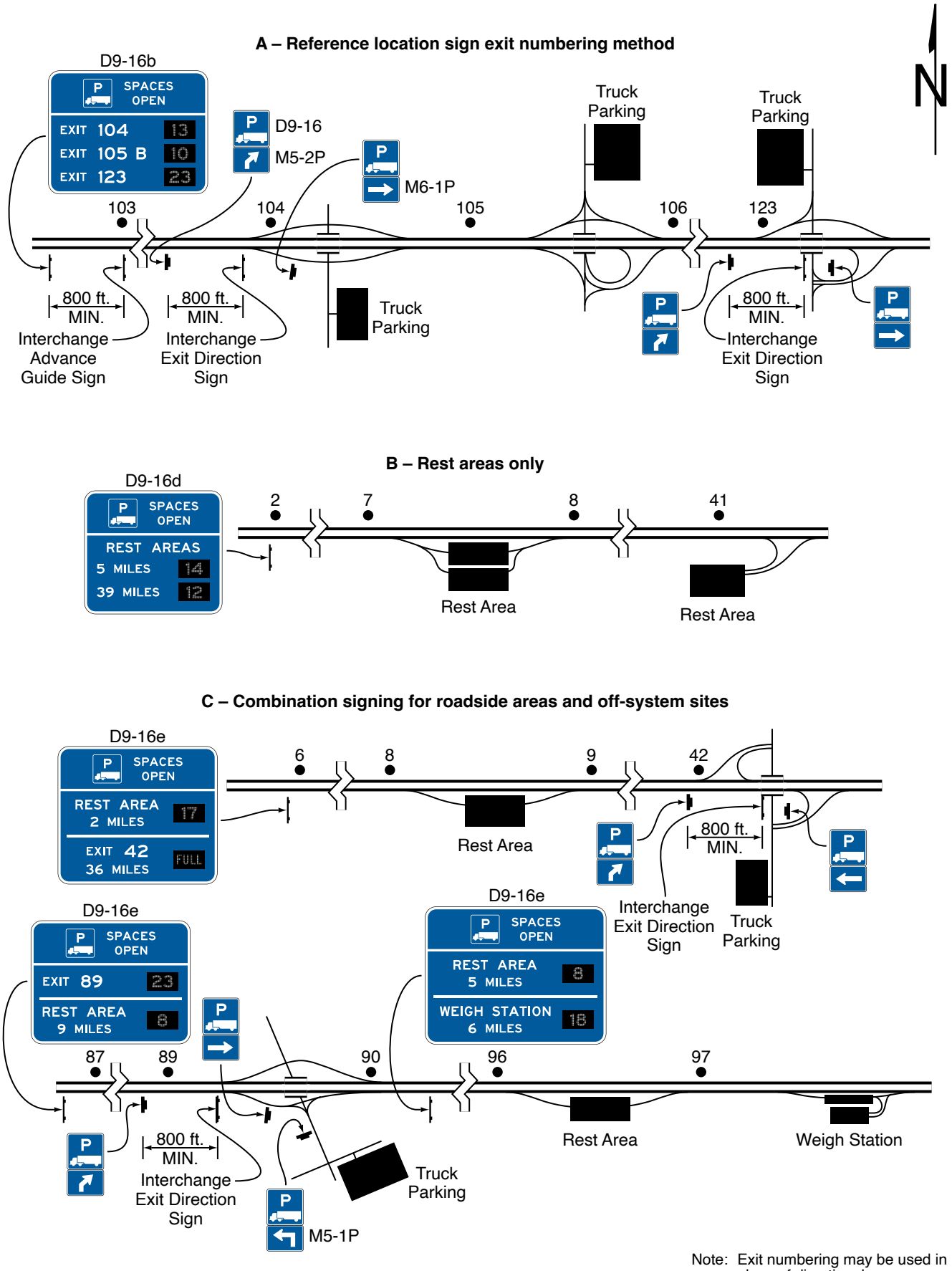
Guidance:

06 *Truck Parking Availability signs should be located 3 to 5 miles in advance of the nearest parking facility. The parking facilities displayed on the sign should be no more than 60 miles from the sign location.*

Support:

07 Examples of uses of Truck Parking Availability signs are shown in Figure 2I-10.

Figure 2I-10. Examples of Use of Truck Parking Availability Signs



Note: Exit numbering may be used in place of directional arrows on the highway mainline.