



MUTCD Mandate Summary

Horizontal Curve Advisory Signing - Chapter 2C

The Opportunity

Currently, there are inconsistencies in curve advisory/warning signing across the nation primarily due to a lack of understanding of mandate requirements, the proper methods available to become compliant, and what total compliance will achieve. When a driver encounters variance in advisory signing, it leads to a pattern of non-compliance with advisory signing altogether. According to the FHWA, this disregard is the reason that “More than 25 percent of fatal crashes are associated with a horizontal curve”. On top of this, the FHWA lists Advance Warning Signs as one of the lowest-cost countermeasures to prevent these crashes.

Requirements

All horizontal curves with an ADT of 1,000 vehicles or greater are to be re-assessed for curve warning signs by year end 2019.

- **Side Friction Limit** - The MUTCD has changed their standards for the amount of outward force experienced when traveling around a curve from 10 degrees of ball bank for all curves to a 12,14,16 degree model due to increases in roadway maintenance and automotive technology.
- **Advance Placement Signs** - The Horizontal Alignment sign and Advisory Speed sign are to be placed on the same pole at the proper distance in advance of the Point of Curvature based on information in Table 2C-4.
- **Chevron Spacing** - In 2009, the chevron spacing requirements changed from having “two in view” at all times to standards that require Advisory Speed and Curve Radius calculation, as seen in Table 2C-6.
- **Sign Placement Requirements** - The 2009 edition introduced requirements for utilizing horizontal curve advisory signing based on the difference in Speed Limit and Advisory Speed, as shown in Table 2C-5.
- **Improper Signs** - The 2009 edition utilized stronger language to state that all improper signage “shall” be removed by year end 2019.

For exact requirements, visit <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part2/part2c.htm>

National Compliance

The danger of non-compliance directly affects drivers traveling on unfamiliar roadways, who are relying on the advisory signing to make informed decisions and take action. National compliance aims to provide all road users with a consistent and trusted understanding of how to safely navigate any road.

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RIEKER INC • 34 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD • ASTON • PA • 19014 • USA

610-500-2000

fax: 610-500-2002

inquiry@riekerinc.com

www.riekerinc.com