

Part 6

Exemptions

6.1 Signs Exempt from Sign Permit

Signs listed in this Part 6 do not require a sign permit, except as provided in section 6.2 of this by-law.

6.2 Signs on Protected Heritage Sites

A sign permit is required for any sign on a protected heritage site, other than an election, hoarding, real estate or temporary sign.

6.3 Compliance with Other Requirements

Signs that do not require a sign permit:

- (a) must comply with the general sign regulations in Part 5 of this by-law;
- (b) must comply with the sign construction regulations in Part 16 of this by-law;
- (c) must comply with all other applicable regulations under this or any other by-law; and
- (d) may require electrical, building or other permits.

6.4 Address, Commemorative and Public Information Signs

A sign permit is not required for:

- (a) a sign listing only the building number and street name of premises;
- (b) a non-illuminated commemorative plaque or cornerstone; or
- (c) a non-illuminated sign providing information or a warning related to safety, security, parking restrictions, or public access, and that does not exceed 0.20 m² in sign area.

6.5 Change of Copy and Routine Maintenance

A sign permit is not required for:

- (a) a change of copy on an existing sign that is under permit or lawfully non-conforming, where the change of copy complies with this by-law, except that a change of copy does not include changing an awning cover; or
- (b) routine maintenance of an existing sign that is under permit or lawfully non-conforming.

6.6 Banner Signs

A sign permit is not required for a banner sign that:

- (a) has a vertical dimension at least twice the width of the banner;
- (b) is perpendicular to a building face;
- (c) has a sign area no greater than 4.0 m², except in the Residential and West End Sign Districts;

- (d) in all sign districts other than the Rogers Arena and Residential and West End Sign Districts, has:
 - (i) copy area consisting of letters, numbers, symbols or logos no greater than 20% of the sign area,
 - (ii) a combined sign area no greater than 4.0 m² for all banner signs on a building face, and
 - (iii) first party advertising not exceeding 30% of the copy;
 except as otherwise provided in subsection (e);
- (e) if advertising public events presented by a non-profit society or public agency, and located in the Granville Street or International Village Sign Districts, the Downtown (DD) zoning district, or the area of the B.C. Place/Expo District (BCPED) shown in Schedule 9A, may have:
 - (i) copy area consisting of letters, numbers, symbols or logos that is greater than 20% of the sign area,
 - (ii) a combined sign area no greater than 8.0 m² for all banner signs on a building face, and
 - (iii) third party advertising not exceeding 30% of the copy;
- (f) in the Residential and West End Sign Districts, has:
 - (i) a sign area no greater than 2.0 m²,
 - (ii) copy area consisting of letters, numbers, symbols or logos that may be greater than 20% of the sign area, and
 - (iii) a combined sign area no greater than 4.0 m² for all banner signs on a building face; and
- (g) on the arena in the Rogers Arena Sign District, may have:
 - (i) copy area consisting of letters, numbers, symbols or logos no greater than 10% of the sign area, and
 - (ii) copy consisting of a logo, the name of the arena or an event scheduled at the arena, which may include third party advertising.

6.7 Cultural, Institutional or Recreational Use Signs

A sign permit is not required for a free-standing sign that:

- (a) is on the site of a building containing cultural, institutional or recreational uses;
- (b) identifies only the cultural, institutional or recreational uses on the site;
- (c) is limited to one for each frontage of the site;
- (d) has a sign area no greater than 0.60 m²;
- (e) is no more than 1.2 m in height; and
- (f) is not illuminated.

6.8 Directional Signs

A sign permit is not required for a directional sign that:

- (a) is at a vehicular entrance or exit to a site;
- (b) is at a vehicular entrance or exit at a lane;
- (c) is limited to two on a site, except that for restaurant and retail uses, there may be:
 - (i) one sign indicating the entry to a drive-through service window, and
 - (ii) one sign indicating each additional vehicular entrance or exit;
- (d) has a sign area no greater than 0.60 m², except that:
 - (i) in the Residential and Chinatown and Gastown Historic Sign Districts, the sign area must be no greater than 0.40 m², and
 - (ii) in the Rogers Arena Sign District, the sign area must be no greater than 1.0 m²; and
- (e) is no more than 1.2 m in height.

6.9 Election Signs

A sign permit is not required for an election sign that:

- (a) is a free-standing or window sign;
- (b) if a free-standing sign, has a sign area no greater than 3.0 m²;
- (c) if a window sign, is limited to one sign for each address or premises with a sign area no greater than 30% of the glass surface of the window;
- (d) in the case of a sign related to a federal or provincial election, by-election, referendum or plebiscite, is erected on or after the date when the writ for the election is issued;
- (e) in the case of a sign related to a general local election, by-election, referendum or plebiscite, is erected no earlier than 45 days before general voting day; and
- (f) is removed within 48 hours after the close of voting.

6.10 Floating Signs

A sign permit is not required for a floating sign that:

- (a) has a sign area no greater than 1.0 m²;
- (b) may include third party advertising; and
- (c) is limited to one per barge, vessel or other structure.

6.11 Hoarding Signs

A sign permit is not required for a hoarding sign that:

- (a) has a combined copy area no greater than 9.3 m² on each frontage;
- (b) in the RA-1 or First Shaughnessy zoning districts or on a site less than 2000 m² in an R1 or RT zoning district, is limited to three signs on each frontage of the site, each with a sign area no greater than 0.56 m²;
- (c) is no more than 3.0 m in height; and
- (d) is displayed only during construction.

6.12 Identification Signs

A sign permit is not required for an identification sign that:

- (a) is a fascia sign;
- (b) is limited to one sign for each premises; and
- (c) has a sign area no greater than 0.20 m².

6.13 Parking Signs

A sign permit is not required for:

- (a) a sign in a parking lot identifying an individual parking space, that:
 - (i) has a sign area no greater than 2.0 m² in all sign districts other than the Residential Sign District,
 - (ii) in the Residential Sign District, has a sign area no greater than 0.10 m²,
 - (iii) if a free-standing sign, is no more than 3.0 m in height,
 - (iv) is at least 7.5 m from a property line, and
 - (v) is not illuminated;
- (b) a free-standing sign identifying a parking lot or garage, that:
 - (i) is limited to one sign at each vehicular entrance or corner of the site,
 - (ii) is at least 7.5 m from another free-standing sign identifying the same parking lot or garage,

- (iii) has a sign area no greater than 2.0 m² for each sign, to a maximum combined sign area of 5.0 m² for all free-standing signs on the site, and
- (iv) is no more than 4.5 m in height; and
- (c) a sandwich board sign identifying a parking lot or garage, that:
 - (i) is in any sign district other than the Residential Sign District,
 - (ii) is limited to one sign at each vehicular entrance, and
 - (iii) has a vertical dimension no greater than 0.90 m and is no more than 0.60 m wide.

6.14 Projected Image Signs

A sign permit is not required for a projected image sign that:

- (a) is in any sign district, except in the Residential and West End Sign Districts;
- (b) advertises community events, campaigns held or sponsored by a charitable or community organization, or events associated with a cultural, institutional or recreational use;
- (c) is limited to one sign on a site;
- (d) has a sign area no greater than 12 m²;
- (e) displays a static image that does not change for at least 10 seconds;
- (f) transitions between images within 0.5 seconds;
- (g) is projected for no more than 5 continuous days and no more than 10 days in a calendar year; and
- (h) is turned off between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

6.15 Public Bike Share Signs

A sign permit is not required for a sign related to the operation of a public bike share station that:

- (a) has a sign area no greater than 3.0 m²;
- (b) is no more than 3.0 m in height, excluding any associated solar panel and related components; and
- (c) may include sponsorship acknowledgement.

6.15A Shared E-Scooter Signs

A sign permit is not required for a sign related to the operation of a shared e-scooter station that:

- (a) has a sign area no greater than 3.0 m²;
- (b) is no more than 3.0 m in height, excluding any associated solar panel and related components; and
- (c) may include sponsorship acknowledgement.

6.16 Real Estate Signs

A sign permit is not required for a real estate sign that:

- (a) is a free-standing sign or a fascia sign attached to a fence or a building at the first storey;
- (b) is limited to one sign at the address or entrance of the property listed for sale or lease;
- (c) in all sign districts and larger residential sites in the Residential Sign District:
 - (i) has a sign area no greater than 3.0 m², and
 - (ii) if a free-standing sign, is no more than 2.4 m in height;
- (d) in the Residential Sign District, except for larger residential sites:
 - (i) has a sign area no greater than 0.56 m², and
 - (ii) if a free-standing sign, is no more than 1.8 m in height; and

- (e) is removed no more than 14 days after the real estate sign indicates that the property has been sold or leased.

6.17 Temporary Signs

A sign permit is not required for a temporary sign that:

- (a) advertises community events, campaigns held or sponsored by a charitable or community organization, or events associated with a cultural, institutional or recreational use, and:
 - (i) is limited to one sign on a site,
 - (ii) is erected no more than 45 days in advance of an event or campaign, and
 - (iii) is removed no more than 7 days after the conclusion of the event or campaign;
- (b) promotes the buying or selling of products and services or announces the opening of a business and:
 - (i) is limited to one sign on premises,
 - (ii) has a sign area no greater than 2.5 m², and
 - (iii) may be displayed for no more than sixty days in a calendar year;
- (c) provides information about a farmers' market and:
 - (i) is erected on the day of the farmers' market, except that one sign advertising the farmers' market may be displayed continuously on a site from May 1st to October 31st, and
 - (ii) has a sign area no greater than 0.40 m²;
- (d) displays public service messages about municipal programs, services or initiatives and is limited to one sign on each frontage of a site; or
- (e) addresses an issue in the public interest and:
 - (i) is limited to one sign for each street address,
 - (ii) has a sign area no greater than 0.56 m², and
 - (iii) if a free-standing sign, is no more than 1.0 m in height.

6.18 Window Signs

A sign permit is not required for a window sign that:

- (a) is in any sign district, except the Residential Sign District;
- (b) is not illuminated, except for an electronic message sign, a sign with neon or neon-like LED lighting;
- (c) is an electronic message sign that:
 - (i) is limited to one sign on the premises,
 - (ii) has a copy area no greater than 0.34 m², and
 - (iii) does not display flashing, scrolling or other visual effects;
- (d) if located on the first storey of a building, has a combined sign area for all signs no greater than 30% of the total area of contiguous glass, or glass panes separated by mullions, contained within a window frame; and
- (e) if located on the second storey of a building, has a combined sign area no greater than 10% of the total area of contiguous glass, or glass panes separated by mullions, contained within a window frame.