

Chapter Hy 13

SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Hy 13.01	General	Hy 13.04	Detailed design of sign designating Statewide Rural Day, Night and Truck Speed Limits
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History: Chapter Hy 13 as it existed on August 31, 1962 was repealed and a new chapter Hy 13 was created effective September 1, 1962.

Hy 13.01 General. (1) **AUTHORITY FOR THESE RULES.** Pursuant to authority contained in section 349.11(5), Wis. Stats., the commission prescribes these rules relating to Speed Limit signs.

(2) **PERMISSIVE INTERIM STANDARDS.** Signs which comply with Chapter Hy 13, as published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register for January, 1956, and as amended in the Wisconsin Administrative Register for July, 1956, may be used before October 1, 1970, but after September 30, 1970, all Speed Limit signs and their installation and use shall comply with these rules.

(3) **MINOR VARIATIONS IN SIGN DESIGN.** These signs shall conform to the detailed design specifications given herein. Minor variations in the size, stroke and shape of letters and numerals, the width of borders, and the size of signs are permitted.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62; am. (2), Register, April, 1967, No 136, eff. 5-1-67; am. (2), Register, September, 1970, No. 177, eff. 10-1-70.

Hy 13.02 Detailed design of Speed Limit sign. (1) **SHAPE.** A Speed Limit sign shall be a rectangle with the longer sides vertical.

(2) **COLOR.** These signs shall have black letters, numerals and border on a reflectorized white background.

(3) **SIZE.** (a) The standard size Speed Limit sign shall be 24 inches by 30 inches.

(b) The minimum size Speed Limit sign shall be 18 inches by 24 inches.

(c) Signs larger than the standard size may be used.

(4) **WORDING.** (a) The numerals shall be rounded numbers with a height of 8 inches and stroke of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches on an 18-inch by 24-inch sign and a height of 10 inches and stroke of $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches on a 24-inch by 30-inch sign.

(b) The words "Speed Limit" shall be in rounded letters with a height of 4 inches and stroke of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch on an 18-inch by 24-inch sign and a height of 4 inches and stroke of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch on a 24-inch by 30-inch sign.

(c) On signs larger than 24 inches by 30 inches, the height and stroke of letters and numerals shall be increased in proportion to the increase in the dimensions of the sign.

(5) **BORDER.** The sign shall have a border $\frac{9}{16}$ inch in width on an 18-inch by 24-inch sign, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in width on a 24-inch by 30-inch sign, and proportionally wider on larger signs. The border shall be set

in from the edge of the sign board $\frac{3}{8}$ inch on either the 18-inch by 24-inch or the 24-inch by 30-inch sign and proportionally farther on larger signs.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Hy 13.03 Detailed design of School Speed Limit sign. The design of this sign is prescribed in section Hy 12.02, Wis. Adm. Code.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Hy 13.04 Detailed design of sign designating State-wide Rural Day, Night and Truck Speed Limits. (1) **SHAPE.** This sign shall be a rectangle with the longer sides vertical.

(2) **SIZE.** (a) The standard size of this sign shall be 24 inches by 78 inches.

(b) The minimum size of this sign shall be 18 inches by 60 inches.

(c) Signs larger than the standard size may be used. When enlarged, the message may be divided and displayed on two signs. Both signs shall include the words "Speed Limit." Whenever one of the two signs is used, both shall be erected. The first sign shall show the day and night speed limits and the second shall show the truck speed limit.

(3) **WORDING.** The wording on these signs shall be "Speed Limit 65-Night 55-Trucks Over 5 Tons 45." Appropriate numerals shall be substituted to show the legally established speed limit.

(4) **SIZE AND COLOR OF LETTERING AND NUMERALS.** (a) The size and color of the letters and numerals on these signs shall be:

Message	18" x 60" sign		24" x 72" sign		Color	
	Height	Stroke	Height	Stroke	Letters	Background
"Speed Limit"-----	4"	$\frac{5}{8}$ "	4"	$\frac{5}{8}$ "	Black	Reflectorized White
"65"-----	8"	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	10"	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Black	Non-reflectorized White
"Night"-----	2"	$\frac{3}{8}$ "	3"	$\frac{5}{8}$ "	Non-reflectorized White	Black
"55"-----	8"	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	10"	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Reflectorized White	Black
"Trucks"-----	2"	$\frac{3}{8}$ "	3"	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	Black	Reflectorized White
"Over 5 Tons"-----	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	Black	Reflectorized White
"45"-----	8"	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	10"	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	Black	Reflectorized White
(Border)-----		$\frac{5}{8}$ "		$\frac{5}{8}$ "	Black	-----
(Margin)-----		$\frac{3}{8}$ "		$\frac{3}{8}$ "	Reflectorized White	-----

(b) When signs larger than the standard sign are used all letters and numerals shall be enlarged in proportion to the enlargement of the sign board.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Hy 13.05 Use of Speed Limit signs and auxiliary signs. (1) **SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.** (a) Minimum size Speed Limit signs may be used on a street or highway with only one lane for traffic in each direction and a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and which is not a state trunk highway, a connecting street or a federal aid highway, except

that on streets or highways where a minimum size sign might otherwise be used, a standard size (or larger) Speed Limit sign shall be used at the point where the speed limit is reduced. Minimum size State-wide Day, Night, and Rural Speed Limit signs may be used on any highway which is not a federal aid highway.

(b) Standard size Speed Limit signs are the smallest which may be used on any highway which does not qualify for the use of minimum size Speed Limit signs under (a).

(c) It is recommended that a Speed Limit sign be erected at every point on a highway where the speed limit changes either upward or downward, except where the speed limits established by subsections 346.57(4) (a), (b) and (c), Wis. Stats., begin and end, and at such additional points as are necessary to advise motorists of the speed limit. The use of State-wide Rural Day, Night and Truck Speed Limit signs at points other than the point where this speed limit first becomes effective upon leaving a city or village is not required.

(2) **END SIGN.** A rectangular 12-inch by 24-inch End sign with its longer sides horizontal, and with black letters and border and white or silver reflectorized background, may be erected immediately above a standard Speed Limit sign in lieu of the sign described in section Hy 13.04 above, to mark the point where the state-wide rural day, night and truck speed limit becomes effective. The use of this sign is limited to locations where, because of geometrics of the highway or the closeness of a Stop sign, it is clearly impractical for traffic to move at the legal speed limit.

(3) **REDUCED SPEED AHEAD SIGNS.** It is recommended that a standard rectangular 24-inch by 30-inch warning sign with the words "Reduced Speed Ahead" and an 18-inch by 18-inch informational sign showing the speed limit in the upcoming speed zone be erected in advance of downward changes of the speed limit of 15 miles per hour or more. The Reduced Speed Ahead sign shall have black letters and border on a reflectorized white or silver background and the informational sign shall have black letters, numerals and border on a reflectorized highway yellow background.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.