

**Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices**  
(For Streets and Highways)  
2003 Edition

**Section 2A.18** – Mounting Height (Page 2A–11, 2A–12)

Below are the MUTCD regulations for mounting heights for traffic signs.

**Clearance height-** from the bottom of the sign to the edge of the pavement

In **Rural Districts** on the side of the road the clearance height for a sign should be at least **5ft** (1.5m).

In areas that contain **parking** and **pedestrian** movements should have a clearance height of at least **7ft** (2.1m).

**Secondary signs** that are mounted below another sign may have a clearance height of **5ft** (1.5m) with the **major sign** having a clearance height of **8ft** (2.4m).

**Route signs, warning signs, and regulatory signs** on freeways and expressways should have a clearance height of at least **7ft** (2.1m). If there are tow signs mounted on top of each other the secondary sign may have a clearance height 1ft (.3m) lower than the previous specification.

Signs that are placed 30ft (9m) away from the traveled way may have a clearance height of 5ft (1.5m).

**Overhead signs** should have a clearance height of at least **17ft** (5.2m). This includes signs, light fixtures, and sign bridges. If the clearance height for other structures is less than 16 ft (4.9m) than the clearance height for the signs should be 1ft (.3m) higher than this distance.

**Notes:**

Clearance height may be adjusted when there are supports near the edge of the right-of-way on a steep back slope.

Clearance height may be adjusted as needed for substandard dimensions in tunnels or double-deck bridges.

**Section 2A.19** - Lateral Offset (Page 2A-12)

**Clear Zone** (Page 1A – 10) – This region consist of the roadside border area such as a shoulder, a recovery slope, and/or a nonrecoverable, traversable slope with a clear run-out area at its toe.

Overhead sign supports should have a minimum lateral offset of 6ft (1.8m) from the edge of the pavement to the edge of the sign supports (cantilever or sign bridges). They also must have a barrier or crash cushion to shield them if they are in a clear zone.

Ground mounted sign supports should be break away, yielding, or shielded with a longitudinal barrier or crash cushion if they are within a clear zone.