

CHAPTER 6 - SIGN STANDARDS PROGRAM FOR CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS

6-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for the management of the Corps Sign Standards Program.

6-2. Background. The Corps of Engineers Sign Standards Program is designed to provide consistency in signing at Corps Civil Works projects and allow the Corps to present a national image which is easily recognized by the public. The materials, size, typeface, color and legends were adopted after extensive study and testing for distance viewing and clarity of content. Use of the specified signs is intended to result in significant cost savings, enhance visitors' aesthetic experience, and provide additional safety protection.

6-3. Guidance.

a. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sign Standards Manual (EP 310-1-6a and b) is to be used in the planning, design, fabrication, and maintenance of all signs installed at Corps Civil Works projects. The sign legends and formats shown in the Sign Standards Manual have been chosen for ease in understanding, visual appeal, economy of scale, and to comply with legal standards governing tort liability.

b. All caution, warning, and danger signs should be used exactly as shown in the Sign Standards Manual with no changes whatsoever in the wording. Legends for restricted area signs may be approved at the district level. This tight constraint is necessary to provide a safer environment for public use, to reduce overall costs, and to provide national consistency. Requests for exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis with the final decision being made by CECW-ON. All requests will be placed on the "Request Procedure for Non-Standard Safety Signs" form (page 1.13 in the Sign Standards Manual) and must include the proposed new wording, complete justification describing the situation and the reasons the proposed new wording is needed, photographs of any existing signs currently used to solve the problem, maps showing the proposed locations of the signs, and any other materials deemed appropriate. Any requested variation and accompanying justification along with other appropriate materials will be submitted through the chain of command and must be accompanied by concurrences from the district and division sign program managers. These submittals will be made to HQUSACE (CECW-ON).

c. Safety messages will not be placed on "Notice" signs.

d. All signs ordered directly by the Corps, except wood routed signs, flexible sign posts, and porcelain/enamel signs must be ordered from Federal Prison Industries (FPI) or fabricated at in-house sign shops. In those rare instances where FPI grants a waiver, signs may be ordered from a private sector fabricator who can meet Corps standards. Contractors may order signs from Federal Prison Industries or from private sector fabricators who meet Corps standards. Wood routed signs, flexible sign posts and porcelain/enamel signs may be ordered through the normal procurement process from a private sector fabricator or fabricated at in-house sign shops.

e. All signs will be mounted in accordance with the Corps Sign Standards Manual.

f. In those rare instances where it is deemed inappropriate to replace existing identification signs for historical or other reasons, a request for exception must be submitted

EP 1130-2-500
27 Dec 96

through the normal chain of command to HQUSACE (CECW-ON) for consideration. Concurrences from both the district and division sign program managers must accompany the request.

g. Recommended changes to the manual will be submitted through the chain of command with justification by the District Sign Program Manager to the Division Sign Program Manager who is responsible for consolidating and recommending changes to HQUSACE (CECW-ON).

h. The Corps Sign Standards Manual will be updated periodically using the Corps standard change procedure for regulations.

i. Additional copies of the Corps Sign Standards Manual may be obtained from the USACE Publications Depot.

j. The Corps Sign Manager Software should be used as a tool in managing the Corps sign program at the project level.

k. The Corps Sign Standards Manual allows flexibility in selecting low maintenance/low cost substitutes, mounting materials, and anti-theft mounting hardware.