

**STATE OF OHIO  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**SUPPLEMENT 1061  
PORTABLE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN  
PREQUALIFICATION PROCEDURE**

**April 19, 2002**

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**1061.01 Description.** This supplement describes the prequalification procedure by which ODOT will establish and maintain a List of Prequalified Portable Changeable Message Signs for use by the Ohio Department of Transportation and on contracts administered by ODOT.

**1061.02 Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply.

- a. "ODOT" means the Ohio Department of Transportation.
- b. "Prequalified List" means the ODOT List of Prequalified Portable Changeable Message Signs.
- c. "NTPEP" means the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' National Transportation Product Evaluation Program.
- d. "Portable Changeable Message Sign (PCMS)" means a temporary traffic control device capable of displaying a variety of messages to fit the needs of highway and street authorities.
- e. "NTPEP Testing Conditions" means the conditions under which a PCMS is evaluated by NTPEP during winter day, winter night, summer day, and summer night.
- f. "Class A Portable Changeable Message Sign" means a PCMS used on roadways where the speed limit is 45 miles per hour or greater.

- g. “Class B Portable Changeable Message Sign” means a PCMS used on roadways where the speed limit is 40 miles per hour or less.
- h. “Legibility Distance” means the distance in advance of a PCMS at which its displayed message first becomes legible, as provided in the NTPEP report.
- i. “Cut-off Distance” means the distance in advance of the PCMS at which the message displayed on the PMCS is no longer legible to an approaching motorist, and calculated by multiplying the tangent of the angle provided in the NTPEP report (termed “angularity”) by 20 feet (the offset used by NTPEP).
- j. “Effective Legibility Distance” means the distance that a PCMS is legible to an approaching motorist, accounting for its angularity, and obtained by subtracting the cut-off distance from the legibility distance; legibility distance and angularity data are provided in the NTPEP report (e.g., a PCMS with a legibility distance of 900 feet and angularity of 60° has an “Effective Legibility Distance” of  $900 \text{ feet} - (20 \text{ feet} \times \tan 60^\circ) = 865 \text{ feet}$ ).

**1061.03 Approval.** For a Portable Changeable Message Sign to be included on the prequalified list, the unit must have been evaluated by NTPEP for a complete winter/summer or summer/winter cycle.

In addition, to be placed on the prequalified list in the Class A category, a PCMS must have a minimum effective legibility distance of 650 feet for each of the four NTPEP testing conditions.

To be placed on the prequalified list in the Class B category, a PCMS must have a minimum effective legibility distance of 475 feet for each of the four NTPEP testing conditions.

**1061.04 Removal from the Prequalified List.** A Portable Changeable Message Sign may be removed from the prequalified list if, in the Department’s sole discretion, the PCMS has substantially or recurrently failed to perform satisfactorily in the field.

**1061.05 Reapproval.** A Portable Changeable Message Sign removed from the prequalified list due to unsatisfactory field performance shall not be returned to the list until the manufacturer identifies the reason for the failure and the problem has been corrected to the satisfaction of ODOT. Experiences of other States or governmental agencies may be considered in this action.

**1061.06 Modifications to Prequalified Portable Changeable Message Signs.** It is recognized that manufacturers will occasionally modify certain aspects of their products in an effort to enhance performance, improve durability, reduce costs, or for

other similar reasons. Portable Changeable Message Sign manufacturers shall notify ODOT's Office of Traffic Engineering whenever modifications are made to products contained on the prequalified list. ODOT will review the changes being made to the product and, at its sole discretion, decide what action, if any, is appropriate. Appropriate action includes limitation of usage or removal from the prequalified list.