Use of Retroreflective Strips on Sign Supports

The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) provides standards and guidelines for the use of traffic signs, pavement markings, traffic signals, and other traffic control devices in our state. The Manual applies to all streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel in Ohio.

The OMUTCD discusses the optional use of retroreflective material on sign supports to help make signs more conspicuous, or noticeable, to road users. Please refer to Part 2 – Signs; Chapter 2A – General. Section 2A.21 (Posts and Mountings) includes the following text.

Option:
Where engineering judgment indicates a need to draw attention to the sign during nighttime conditions, a strip of retroreflective material may be used on regulatory and warning sign supports.

Standard:
If a strip of retroreflective material is used on the sign support, it shall be at least 2 inches in width, it shall be placed for the full length of the support from the sign to within 2 feet above the edge of the roadway, and its color shall match the background color of the sign, except that the color of the strip for the YIELD and DO NOT ENTER signs shall be red.

This option refers to regulatory and warning sign supports. Regulatory and warning signs are described in Section 2A.05 (Classification of Signs), and also in Chapters 2B and 2C.

In Section 2A.15 (Enhanced Conspicuity for Standard Signs), the use of retroreflective material on sign supports is listed as a method that may be used to enhance the sign’s conspicuity.

K. Adding a strip of retroreflective material to the sign support in compliance with the provisions of Section 2A.21.

Figure 2A-1 (Examples of Enhanced Conspicuity for Signs) includes illustration “E” as shown on this page.
Photos of warning sign supports that have a strip of retroreflective material.

"Who can I call if I have questions?"
Questions about traffic signs may be directed to Jim Roth, P.E., Signing Engineer with ODOT’s Office of Traffic Operations, at (614) 752-0438. Assistance may also be available from Traffic Engineering staff at the ODOT District Office in your area, or from your County Engineer’s Office.

“How can I access the OMUTCD?”
The 2012 Edition of the OMUTCD is available online for viewing or downloading (free of charge), at: www.dot.state.oh.us/omutcd. Printed copies are also available. The Manual is provided free to government agencies, local jurisdictions, schools and public libraries; to others there will be a charge. The cost is $34.50 plus shipping and tax. Requests should be directed to ODOT's Office of Contracts at 1-800-459-3778 or 614-466-3778.

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