



**VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 12-205**

**ISSUED: April 1, 2003**

**SUBJECT:** Safety Standards for Signs, Signals, and Barricades, Subpart G, §§1926.200 through 1926.203

**A. Purpose.**

This directive transmits to field personnel the Construction Industry safety standards for signs, signals, and barricades, Subpart G.

*This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.*

**B. Scope.**

This directive applies to all VOSH personnel.

**C. Action.**

Directors and Managers shall ensure that field personnel understand and comply with the standard included in this directive.

**D. Effective Date.**

March 1, 2003

**E. Expiration Date.**

Not Applicable.

**F. Background.**

Prior to promulgating this final rule, federal OSHA required employers to comply with the 1971 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Specifically, employers were required to ensure that the following conform to the 1971 MUTCD: traffic control signs or devices used to protect construction workers (29 CFR §1926.200(g)(2)); signaling directions by flagmen (29 CFR §1926.201); and barricades for the protection of workers(29 CFR §1926.202).

A Department of Transportation (DOT) rule, 23 CFR Part 655.601 through 655.603 requires, however, that such traffic control signs or devices conform to a more recent version of the MUTCD. DOT regulations provide that the MUTCD is the national standard for all traffic control devices on streets, highways and bicycle trails. DOT's rule requires that traffic control devices on roads in which federal funds were involved be in substantial conformance with its MUTCD. In effect, the MUTCD has become a national benchmark for all roads.

OSHA was asked by several stakeholders to update Subpart G because the stakeholders had to meet the outdated OSHA requirements in addition to the DOT rule. The stakeholders pointed out that Revision 3 and the Millennium Edition, which was published in 2000, reflect updated standards and technical advances based on over 20 years of experience in work zone traffic control design and implementation, as well as human behavior research and experience.

In January 1999, the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices requested that OSHA adopt Revision 3 in place of the 1971 MUTCD. In May 2000, OSHA's Advisory Committee on Construction Occupational Safety and Health also expressed support for adopting a more recent edition of the MUTCD as the OSHA standard for the construction industry. After reviewing the differences between the 1971 version, Revision 3 and the Millennium Edition, OSHA concluded that compliance with the more recently published manuals would provide all the safety benefits (and more) of the 1971 version.

Through this final rule, federal OSHA is requiring that traffic control signs, signals, barricades or devices conform to Revision 3 or Part VI of the Millennium Edition, instead of the ANSI MUTCD, issued in 1971. In 1988, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) substantially revised and reissued the MUTCD. Since that time, FHWA has published several updates, including a 1993 revision to Part VI-Revision 3. In December 2000, FHWA published a Millennium Edition of the MUTCD that changed the format and revised several requirements. Employers that receive Federal highway funds are currently required to comply with Revision 3 and have until January 2003 to bring their programs into compliance with the Millennium Edition.

OSHA initially proposed to amend the standard through a direct final rule (67 FR 18091, April 14, 2002). It withdrew the direct final rule because two of the eight comments received were both seeking a one-year delay in the August 13, 2002, effective date. These comments were treated by OSHA as significant adverse comments (67 FR 46375).

Because most affected employers have been required to comply with the updated MUTCD since 1996, OSHA determined that a one-year extension in the effective date was unnecessary. Instead, OSHA added 120 days to the original proposed effective date to emphasize outreach and education efforts to assist the industry in training employees on the new rule.

## **G. Summary.**

Federal OSHA amended 29 CFR 1926 Subpart G, §§1926.200 - 1926.203, which revised the construction industry safety standard for traffic control signs, signals and barricades protecting road construction workers.

Subpart G is amended by replacing its references to the 1971 ANSI standard with references to the U.S.

Department of Transportation's September 3, 1993, Revision 3 to Part VI of its 1988 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). This standard applies to employers involved in road construction and repair and now requires compliance with Part VI of the 1988 MUTCD with 1993 revisions or the Millennium Edition of MUTCD (instead of the current ANSI D6.1-1971 standard/1971 MUTCD).

C. Ray Davenport  
Commissioner

Attachment: 67 FR 57722 (September 12, 2002) or refer to:  
[http://www.osha.gov/FedReg\\_osha\\_pdf/FED20020912.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_osha_pdf/FED20020912.pdf)

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**16 VAC 25-175-1926.200 through 1926.203, Safety Standards for Signs, Signals and Barricades, Subpart G, §§1926.200 through 1926.203**

As adopted by the  
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date: December 2, 2002



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: March 1, 2003

16 VAC 25-175-1926.200 through 1926.203, Safety Standards for Signs, Signals and Barricades, Subpart G, §§1926.200 through 1926.203

When the regulations, as set forth in final rule for Safety Standards for Signs, Signals and Barricades, Subpart G, §§1926.200 through 1926.203, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR

VOSH Standard

Assistant Secretary

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Agency

Department

December 11, 2002

March 1, 2003