



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

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Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance Sign Guidance

2025 Edition

Acknowledgements

Colorado Revised Statute 42-4-225.

FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2009).

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Introduction

This document is intended to serve as a guide for the placement of Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance signs. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) typically does not allow the installation of traffic signs on state highways that have not proven to be effective. However, CDOT has chosen to work with counties and cities to allow limited use of Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance signs on state highways under certain conditions, despite the lack of evidence that they are effective in reducing engine brake noise. Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance signs shall not be installed on freeways or interstates. It is preferred to only place these signs at the city limit or county limit. Reminder signs may be placed at other locations if they meet warrants and are approved by the Region Traffic Engineer (RTE).

Sign Guidance

The local agency requesting an Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance sign shall submit an Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance Sign Request form (Appendix A) with documentation from the local law enforcement committing to enforce the ordinance to the RTE for review. The RTE may install one R52-7a sign in each direction on the state highway at the city limit or county line. For municipalities that have an engine brake ordinance in place, sign R52-9a may be used as a supplement below R52-7a. Additional reminder signs may be installed at a minimum distance of 10 miles if the following conditions are met:

- The requested state highway is considered a Highway Freight Corridor as shown on Colorado's Freight Network Map located in Colorado's Freight Plan and is not a freeway or interstate. (https://freight.colorado.gov/sites/freight/files/documents/FR1_CODOT_COFrPIn_Apr24_ACCES_SIBLE.pdf or <https://freight.colorado.gov/plan-invest/freight-planning-efforts>)
- At least three of the following conditions are met.
 - Downgrade¹ in the segment of the state highway is:
 - 5% for more than 3,000 feet in length,
 - 6% for more than 2,000 feet in length,
 - 7% for more than 1,000 feet in length,
 - 8% for more than 750 feet in length, or
 - 9% for more than 500 feet in length.
 - Residential² housing development adjacent to the state highway is within 1,000 feet and the residential housing development is spaced on average less than 200 feet apart on either or both sides of the state highway.
 - The percentage of trucks is at least 15% or a percentage set by the RTE.
 - A 15 mph step down in speed limit.

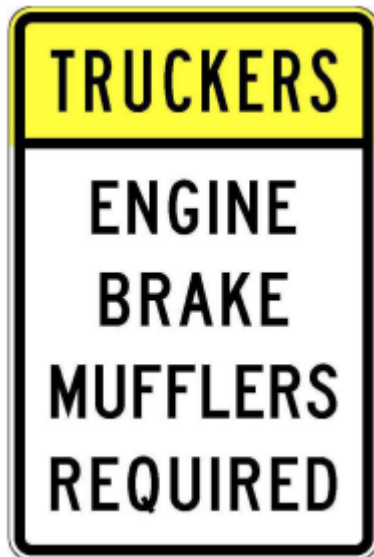
¹ Downgrade values used are from the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices section 2C.16 guidance for hill signs.

² Values used from definition of semi-urban district in Wisconsin Department of Transportation engine brake signing guidance.

Sign Placement

It is preferred to only install R52-7a “Truckers Engine Brake Mufflers Required” signs on the state highway at the city, town, or county limit. Reminder signs may be placed at other locations if they meet conditions listed in sign guidance and have been approved by the Region Traffic Engineer.

For locations that have a local noise ordinance in place, sign R52-9a may be used as a supplemental sign below sign R52-7a. Where a local ordinance varies the Region Traffic Engineer may decide to use a sign for the location specific conditions.



R52-7a



R52-9a

R52-7 “Truckers - Engine Brake Mufflers Required \$500 fine” may be installed on state highways near the state line.



R52-7

Appendix A: Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance Sign Request Form

CDOT's ENGINE BRAKE/NOISE ORDINANCE SIGN REQUEST FORM

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) typically does not allow the installation of traffic signs on state highways that have not proven to be effective. However, CDOT has chosen to work with counties and cities to allow a limited use of Engine Brake/Noise Ordinance signs on state highways under certain conditions. It is preferred to only place these signs at the city limit or county line and reminder signs may be placed at other locations if they meet warrants and are approved by the Region Traffic Engineer. Meeting warrants does not guarantee a sign will be installed. This sign request form must be submitted by the local agency representative.

Due to sign effectiveness being highly dependent on enforcement, documentation from the local law enforcement committing to enforcing the ordinance must be submitted with this form.

Local Agency Representative Contact Information

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Location Description

County/City: _____ State Highway: _____ Mile Post: _____

Is this a designated truck route¹?

Yes No

Does the county/city have a noise ordinance? If yes, please submit a copy of the noise ordinance with your request.

Yes No

Site Description

Speed Limit (mph): _____ Downgrade (%): _____ Length of Hill (ft): _____

Is there a speed reduction of 15 mph within 1,000 ft? Yes No

Residential Development

Housing Density: _____ Average Distance from Highway: _____

Traffic Information²

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT): _____ Percent Trucks: _____

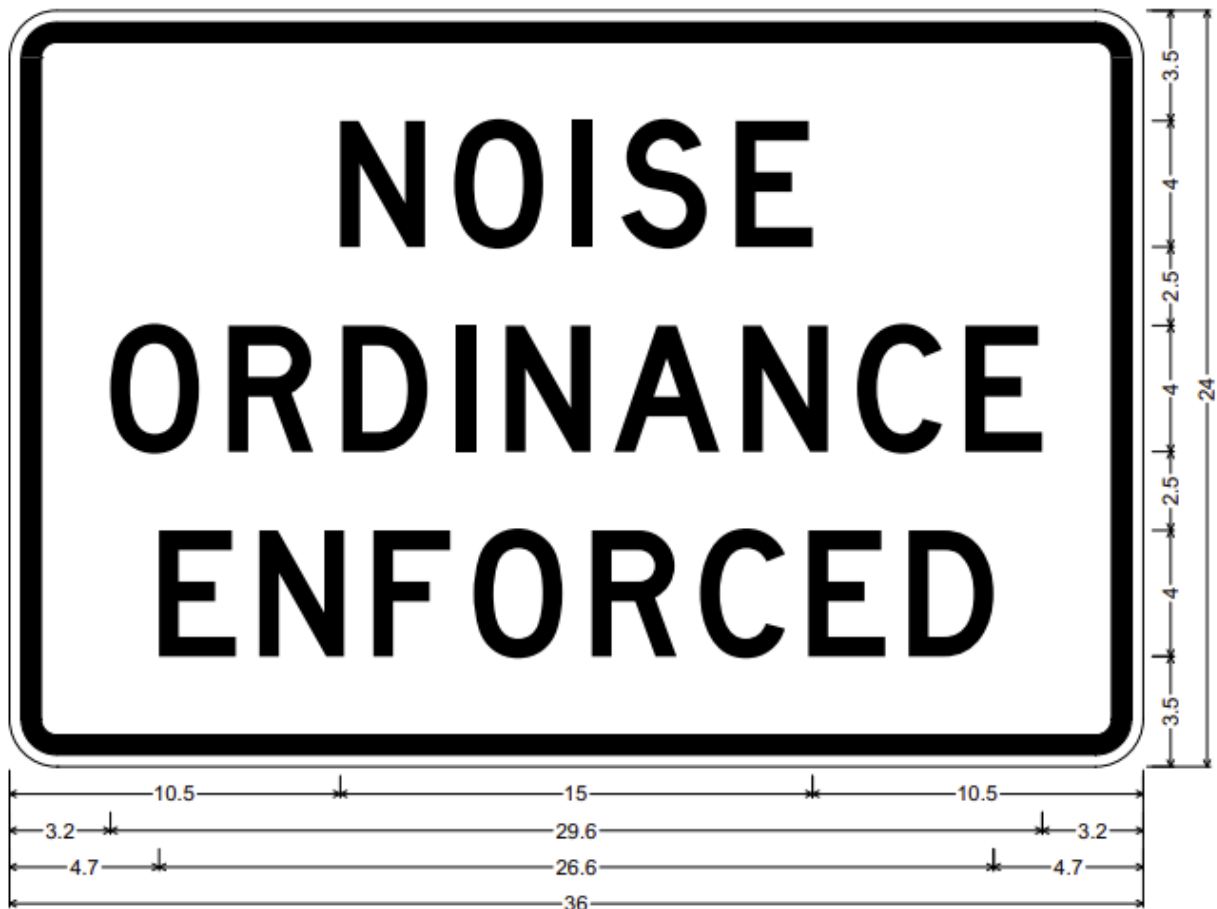
Comments

¹ Use CDOT's Map of Colorado's Multimodal Freight Network in the Colorado Freight Plan to determine if the requested location is a designated truck route

(https://freight.colorado.gov/sites/freight/files/documents/FR1_CODOT_COFRtPln_Apr24_ACCESSIBLE.pdf or <https://freight.colorado.gov/plan-invest/freight-planning-efforts>).

² Use CDOT's Online Transportation Information System (<https://dtdapps.coloradodot.info/otis/TrafficData#ui/1/1/0>) for traffic information.

Appendix B: Sign Package



Identifier : 36R52-9a

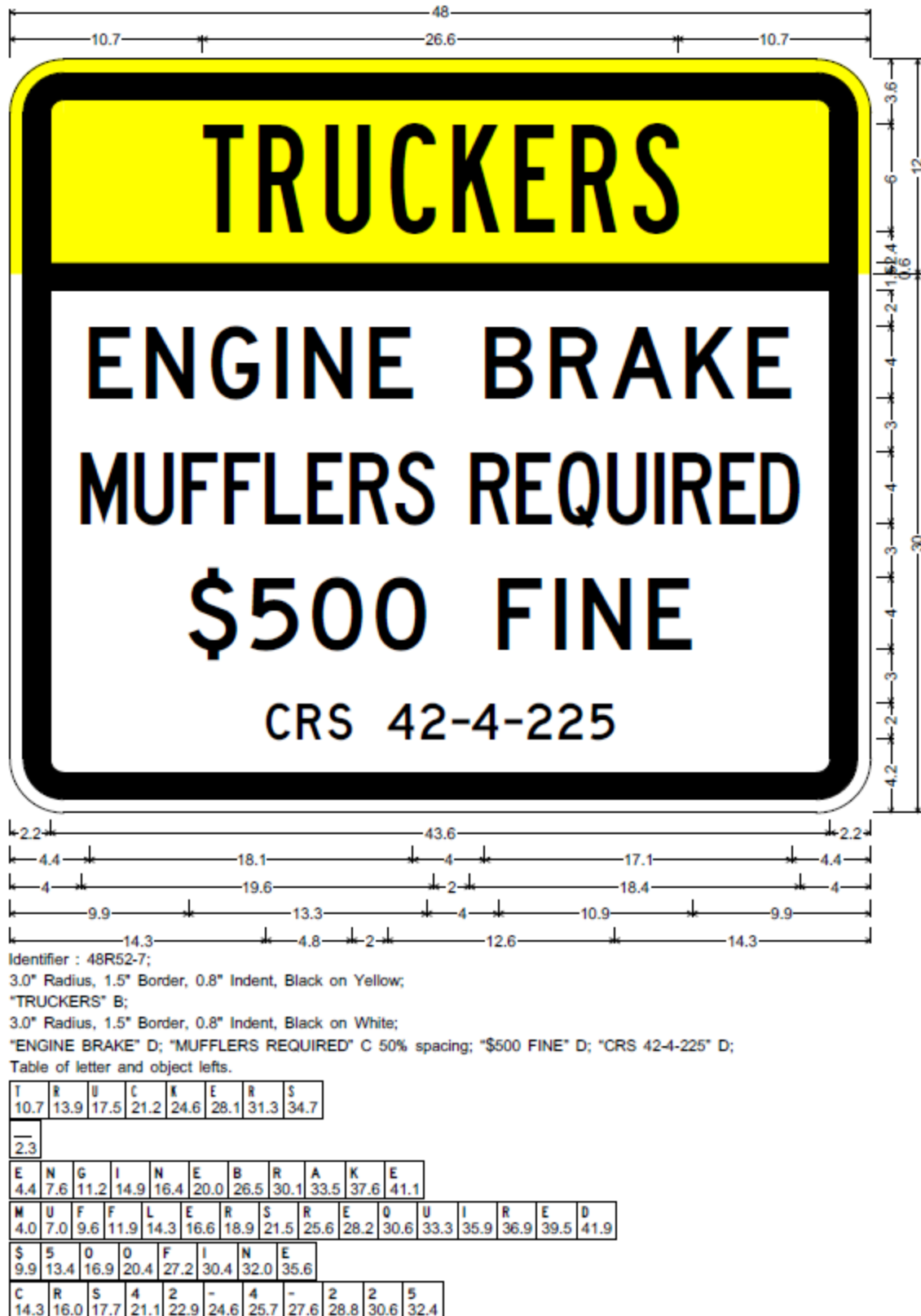
1.5" Radius, 0.6" Border, 0.4" Indent, Black on White;

"NOISE" D; "ORDINANCE" D; "ENFORCED" D;

Table of letter and object lefts.

N	O	I	S	E					
10.5	14.1	17.9	19.4	23.1					
O	R	D	I	N	A	N	C	E	
3.2	7.0	10.6	14.2	15.8	19.2	23.3	26.9	30.4	
E	N	F	O	R	C	E	D		
4.7	7.9	11.6	14.8	18.5	21.9	25.4	28.6		

Alternative sign dimensions may be found at <https://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/design/signing-and-markings>



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