

STREETS

Issue: 03

**Sign Retro-reflectivity
Requirements**

September, 16, 2011

Safety BULLETIN

Maintaining Traffic Sign Retro-reflectivity

Traffic signs provide important information and direction to all drivers. To be effective, the signs must be visible in day time and at night, and their reflectivity must be maintained at all times.

The 2003 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices addresses requirements for sign visibility, such as: Uniformity, Design, Placement, Operation, and maintenance. This manual did not specify Minimum Retro-reflectivity levels. The second revision of the 2003 MUTCD establishes Minimum Retro-reflectivity levels that **MUST be maintained for Traffic Signs**

The new MUTCD Minimum Retro-reflectivity compliance periods have been set.

They are: January, 2012 is the compliance date to establish and implement a sign assessment or management method to maintain minimum levels of sign retro-reflectivity.

January, 2015 is the compliance date for Regulatory, Warning, and ground-mounted **GUIDE SIGNS.**

January, 2018 is the compliance date for overhead Guide signs and Street Name Signs.

The complete guidelines and references for this standard can be found in the SECOND REVISION of the 2003 MUTCD MANUAL. You may also check out the following website: www.fhwa.dot.gov/retro to find the complete details on the Retro-reflectivity Requirements. You should find all of the information you need at the website.

As always, if you need help regarding this subject, you may call the Risk Management, Inc. Safety Department.