



OKC Development Codes Update

Proposed new sign code: frequently asked questions about alterations to existing signs.

1. Will existing signs be required to be replaced or updated once the new sign code is adopted?

No, if they were lawfully erected. Reference Nonconforming Signs, Section 59-16114.A.

2. Will I be able to repair my existing sign without having to come into compliance with other new sign code provisions?

Yes, if the sign was lawfully erected. Existing signs can be painted and cleaned, and broken signs can be repaired without a permit. Reference Nonconforming Signs, Section 59-16114.B.

3. Will I be able to change the existing cabinet face without having to come into compliance with other new sign code provisions?

Yes, if the cabinet face is the same area, height, or EMD level. Reference Nonconforming Signs, Section 59-16114.B.1.

4. Will I be able to replace the sign pole without having to come into compliance with other new sign code provisions?

Yes, if the sign pole was lawfully erected. If the pole is being replaced in substantially the same location, it would not lose its nonconforming status just because it is required to obtain a new sign permit. Reference Nonconforming Signs, Section 59-16114.B.

5. What happens if my existing nonconforming sign is destroyed by a severe weather event? Will I be able to replace it with the same nonconforming size and/or height, or will the replacement sign have to conform to the new sign code provisions?

The sign may be reconstructed in the original location with the same size, height, and materials.

6. What happens if I want to replace my existing sign pole in a new location, and/or increase the height, and/or enlarge the cabinet size, or and/or change the sign to an EMD?

If the pole is re-located on the site or the sign is enlarged or the intensity of the use is increased, then it would lose its nonconforming status and will have to come into compliance with new code provisions. Reference General Requirements, 59-16103.E and 59-16114.A.(2) . Also see 11 O.S. sec. 44-107.1.

7. Will a sign permit be required to replace an existing sign pole?

Yes. However, the sign pole will not be required to come into compliance with other new sign code provisions. Reference Nonconforming Signs, Section 59-16114.B.

8. What happens if a business changes its name or has a new owner? Would it be allowed to change the existing sign(s) to show the new business name without having to come into compliance with new sign code provisions?

If the existing sign(s) were lawfully erected, and if rezoning is not required to allow the new business, the existing sign cabinet and/or pole could remain as-is or be replaced with the new business name, as long as the cabinet face is the same area, height, or EMD level. Reference Nonconforming Signs, Section 59-16114.A.

If rezoning is required to allow the new business use, the existing signs would be required to come into compliance with the new zoning regulations.