Parking Structures

- Directional
- Floor Level
- Entrance
- Informational
- Disabled Access
- Parking Structure Identification
- Parking Stall
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Section 5
Parking Structure Signs

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The development of an effective parking structure sign program requires the coordination of several interrelated criteria.

An effective sign program must consider the following:

1. Circulation system in the parking structure.
2. How do visitors currently drive around in the parking structure?
3. Where do you want visitors to park? Where do you want staff to park?
4. What is the desired path of travel on the campus roadway system, for visitors and staff?
5. What is the desired path of pedestrian travel from parked vehicles to building entrances?
6. Location of building entrances on the facility campus in relation to parking.
7. Location of electricity, its availability, and voltage.
8. Adequacy of lighting on and around directional signs.
9. Placement of signs in locations where people expect signage.

These elements help establish the basis of a clear sign program that communicates and informs in a direct and simple manner.

A parking structure sign program that works well is one that has been planned as an integrated whole from the vehicle directional signs, pedestrian directional signs, building, and building entrance identification, and parking exit signs.

Another important consideration is that a parking structure sign program needs to be planned in accordance with a cohesive organized parking plan for both visitors and staff. Visitors will need wayfinding information, whereas staff will not. In split use parking facilities where a section will be designated as “visitor parking” and another section will be designated as “staff parking”, only the visitor parking section will require wayfinding signage.

The main parking identification sign for a medical center parking structure should be a large scale illuminated sign. Refer to the exterior sign section for illuminated free standing signs.

Internally illuminated signs within a parking structure should be considered for those locations where important information and directions need to be communicated at night or in low light conditions. A non-illuminated sign that is illuminated with floodlights or a light fixture can also be used.

Non-illuminated signs with reflective letters will function well for secondary signs. It is a good practice to make all non-illuminated exterior signs with reflective letters and graphics that will ensure the best possibility of the sign being read.
**Color Coding Options**

Parking structures over three levels should consider color coding the floor levels in different colors. Colors should be distinctly different from floor to floor. For example, if floor one is blue, floor two should be orange, floor three, green, etc.

In addition to color coding the floors, one may also consider using imagery to differentiate one floor from the next. The various images assigned to each floor should be thematically related. For example, one may choose trees or leaves as a theme, where each floor is associated with a distinctly different looking leaf or tree image.

Imagery should consist of bold graphics, that are easy to read and interpret at a quick glance, such as icons or silhouetted shapes. Sports teams, city landmarks or other types of local images can also be used.

**Examples of Color Coding, No Imagery**

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**Examples of Combined Image & Color Coding**

(illustrations intended to convey idea, NOT actual layout, colors or artwork)
The following are some general “Do's and Don'ts” guidelines one can refer to when developing a sign program: this is not intended to be a training section of the guide, but to provide key information and suggestions that will hopefully reduce common errors that are made when planning and programming a parking structure sign program.

**General Guidelines**

- Never use text smaller than 3” capital letter height when a sign is intended to be read from a moving vehicle.
- Text intended to be read by pedestrians should be a minimum of 1-1/2” capital letter height.
- Use text (words) which are familiar, easy to understand and comfortable to the viewer.
- Always use the same words, names or titles throughout the sign program.
- All sign messages need to be a minimum of 24” above grade.
- When selecting a background color for the signs, select a complementary color to the buildings on campus.
- Signs do require maintenance. Cleaning and waxing will extend the life of exterior signs.

**Size of Sign to Use**

- Always consider the landscaping surrounding a sign when determining a sign's size. It is important that shrubs and other plants do not hide or obscure the sign.
- Lettering and sign panel size should be appropriate for the distance and speed at which a sign is viewed.

**Message Content**

- Keep sign messages brief.
- Unnecessary information on signs can confuse the viewer.
- Typically, all signs, with the exception of directional signs, should convey no more than one concept or thought.
- Use text (words) that can be quickly read by the viewer. Use the same words throughout the sign program.
- On directional and informational signs provide only the information necessary to make a decision at that particular location.
- Whenever possible, messages should be presented using positive information.
- On directional signs, do not anticipate decisions that can be made later. Unnecessary or premature information will confuse the reader.
- Messages placed on signs should be concise, preferably with no more than seven to ten words.
- For signs to be read from a moving car, take into account the speed of the car. At a slow speed the driver may be able to read seven or eight words. At a faster speed they will only be able to read four or five.
Helpful Hints

Parking Structure Signs

Message Layout

• Use upper and lower case text whenever possible. Upper and lower case text is easier to read and can be understood faster than text in all capital letters.

• Line-spacing between two different messages should be greater than line-spacing between lines of the same multiple-line message.

• Text should not be run right up to the edge of the sign.

• If a line text needs to be reduced in order to fit on a sign, use only commonly recognized abbreviations, reduce the number of words or reduce the size of the type for the entire message. DO NOT condense the type face.

• The most important message should appear as the first line text and the most important directional information should be at the top of the sign on free standing signs. Signs mounted to the ceiling of a parking garage should have the most important message at the bottom of the sign.

Placement of Signs

• Signs should, always be perpendicular to the intended viewer.

• Position signs with a clear line of sight from the viewing point to the sign face.

• Always evaluate a sign's location at night as well as in the daylight. Lighting conditions and visibility may change at night making a particular location unsuitable.

• Signs should be placed in a manner that will be clearly visible to driver all times of the year. For example, make sure that snow removal doesn't bury signs.

• Signs that receive spray from irrigation sprinklers will show staining from the minerals in the water resulting in a poor appearance. The life of the sign will also be considerably shortened.

• Always consider the landscaping surrounding a sign when determining a sign's location. It is important that trees, shrubs and other plants do not obscure the sign.

• Do not place signs in locations where people may walk into them. Don't place signs any closer than 12” to a walkway.
This section of the VA Signage Design Guide provides guidelines for the various types of parking structure signs necessary to sign a parking structure, regardless of size or type of use.

The following overview illustrates the various types of signs in this section. The individual pages on each sign type provide more specific information and detailed layouts.

Each sign in the program guide has been given a specific sign type number designation. This designation provides a common description that can be referenced when programming a site and ordering signs. The following explains how the sign type designations are derived.

**PS - 01.01 A**

**PS** Designates a parking structure sign.

- **01** Two digit numbers identifies a particular sign type family.
  
  - **.01** The two digit number following the period identifies a specific sign within the sign family.
  
  - **A** The letter designates a specific sign configuration, version and/or layout for graphics.
Overview

Parking Structure Signs

Sign Type PS-01
Non-illuminated directional sign with vinyl lettering

PS-01.01
22” – Long ceiling hung vehicular directional sign

PS-01.02
22” – Short ceiling hung vehicular directional sign

PS-01.03
15” – Long ceiling hung vehicular directional sign

PS-01.04
15” – Short ceiling hung vehicular directional sign

Sign Type PS-02
Non-illuminated directional sign with vinyl lettering

PS-02.01
22” – Long beam-mounted vehicular directional sign

PS-02.02
22” – Short beam-mounted vehicular directional sign

PS-02.03
15” – Long beam-mounted vehicular directional sign

PS-02.04
15” – Short beam-mounted vehicular directional sign
Sign Type PS-03
Wall-mounted directional
PS-03.01
Small pedestrian and vehicle oriented sign
PS-03.02
Large pedestrian and vehicle oriented sign

Sign Type PS-04
Wall mounted warning sign

Sign Type PS-05
Vehicular oriented column level marker
PS-05.01
Square column marker
PS-05.02
Narrow column marker
PS-05.03
Round column marker
PS-05.04
Small round column marker
**Overview**

**Parking Structure Signs**

**Sign Type PS-05.05**  
Blade sign mounted to light pole

**Sign Type PS-06**  
Overhead wall-mounted identification sign

**Sign Type PS-07**  
Elevator and stairwell identification vinlyls
- **PS-07.01**: Text and number
- **PS-07.02**: Number only

**Sign Type PS-08, 09 and 10**  
Entrance/occupancy signs
- **PS-08**: 10” Dimensional letters
- **PS-09**: Clearance height “bang bar”
- **PS-10**: Electronic lane use sign

**Exit**  
**Entrance**  
**PS-08**  
**PS-09**  
**PS-10**
Overview

Parking Structure Signs

**PS-11**
Enterance/Exit sign

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**Sign Type PS-12.01**
Panel informational signs

**PS-12.03**
Parking Stall Designation

**PS-12.04**
Handicapped parking stall

**PS-12.05**
Handicapped Parking Area

**PS-12.07**
Informational panel sign mounted to wall

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**Overview Parking Structure Signs**
Overview

Parking Structure Signs

Sign Type PS-13
Electronic Stall Availability Sign

Entrance

Spaces Available
LEVEL 5
LEVEL 4
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 1

Clearance 7'-0"

PS-13

Sign Type PS-14
Exterior Building Mounted
Parking Directional/Availability Sign

PS-14

Sign Type PS-15
Painted Parking
Stall Identification

PS-15
**Parking Regulatory**
See Exterior Sign Section for more detail.

**Informational Signs**
See Interior Sign Section for more detail.

- **IN CASE OF FIRE**, **USE STAIRS. DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.**
- **NO EXIT**
- **Mechanical Room**
- **44444**
- **Elevator**
- **SPEED LIMIT 15**
- **STOP**
- **PARKING ONLY**
- **PARKING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**
**Painted / Vinyl Garage Core Graphics**
See page 5-5-18 for more details.

**Painted Wayfinding and Area Identification**
See page 5-5-19 for more details.
Parking Structure Signs

22” – Long Ceiling Hung Directional

Size
Sign Face:
559 mm H x 3050 mm W
(1’ 10” H x 10’ 0” W)

Description
Non-illuminated, ceiling hung sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Message layout A allows for 2 message fields, 1 line of text at a larger type size.

Message layout B allows for up to 4 message fields, 2 lines of text, at a smaller type size.

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

Recommendations
Position sign so visibility is not obstructed by building support beams. Align sign with flow of traffic.

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Large Ceiling Hung Directional**

Message Layout A

- 3050 mm (10'-0")
- 2642 mm (8'-8")
- 559 mm (1'-10")
- 482.6 mm (1'-7")
- 38 mm (1-1/2")
- 152.4 mm (6")
- 63.5 mm (2-1/2")

Message Layout B

- 38 mm (1-1/2")
- 152.4 mm (6")
- 50.8 mm (2")

EQ

EQ

EQ

EQ

EQ

EQ
**Parking Structure Signs**

**22” – Short Ceiling Hung Directional**

**Size**
Sign Face: 559 mm H x 1830 mm W (1’ 10” H x 6’ 0” W)

**Description**
Non-illuminated, ceiling hung sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Message layout A allows for 1 message line at a larger type size.

Message layout B allows for up to 2 message lines at a smaller type size.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so invisibility is not obstructed by building support beams. Align sign with flow of traffic.
Parking Structure Signs
Small Ceiling Hung Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
**Parking Structure Signs**

**15" – Long Ceiling Hung Directional**

**Size**
Sign Face: 381 mm H x 3050 mm W
(1' 3" H x 10' 0" W)

**Description**
Non-illuminated, ceiling hung sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Message layout A allows for 2 message fields, 1 line of text, at a larger type size.

Message layout B allows for up to 4 message fields, 2 lines of text, at a smaller type size.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so visibility is not obstructed by building support beams. Align sign with flow of traffic.

---

**Message Layout A**

![Message Layout A]

**Message Layout B**

![Message Layout B]
Parking Structure Signs
Large Ceiling Hung Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
Size
Sign Face:
381 mm H x 1830 mm W
(1’ 3” H x 6’ 0” W)

Description
Non-illuminated, ceiling hung sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Message layout A allows for 1 message line at a larger type size.

Message layout B allows for up to 2 message lines at a smaller type size.

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

Recommendations
Position sign so visibility is not obstructed by building support beams. Align sign with flow of traffic.
Parking Structure Signs

Small Ceiling Hung Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
Parking Structure Signs

22" – Long Beam Mounted Directional

Size
Sign Face:
559 mm H x 3050 mm W
(1' 10" H x 10' 0" W)

Description
Non-illuminated, beam mounted sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Message layout A allows for 2 message fields, 1 line of text, at a larger type size.

Message layout B allows for up to 4 message fields, 2 lines of text, at a smaller type size.

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

Recommendations
Position sign on bottom edge of beam/soffit and align sign with flow of traffic.
Parking Structure Signs
Large Beam Mounted Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
**Parking Structure Signs**

**22" – Short Beam Mounted Directional**

**Size**
Sign Face:
559 mm H x 1830 mm W
(1' 10" H x 6' 0" W)

**Description**
Non-illuminated, beam mounted sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)
Message layout A allows for 1 message line at a larger type size.
Message layout B allows for up to 2 message lines at a smaller type size.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign on bottom edge of beam/soffit and align sign with flow of traffic.

---

**Message Layout A**

![Elevator Sign](image1)

**Message Layout B**

![Stair and Elevator Signs](image2)
Parking Structure Signs
Small Beam Mounted Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
**Parking Structure Signs**

**15” – Long Beam Mounted Directional**

**Size**
Sign Face:
381 mm H x 3050 mm W  
(1’ 3” H x 10’ 0” W)

**Description**
Non-illuminated, beam mounted sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)
Message layout A allows for 2 message fields, 2 lines of text, at a larger type size.

Message layout B allows for up to 4 message fields, 2 lines of text, at a smaller type size.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart  
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign on bottom edge of beam/soffit and align sign with flow of traffic.

---

**Message Layout A**

↑ Exit  Elevators →

**Message Layout B**

↑ Elevator  Stair  Additional Parking →  Exit
Parking Structure Signs
Large Beam Mounted Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
**Parking Structure Signs**

15" – Short Beam Mounted Directional

**Size**
Sign Face:
381 mm H x 1830 mm W
(1' 3" H x 6' 0" W)

**Description**
Non-illuminated, beam mounted sign. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them information such as the exit, additional parking and the elevators or stairs.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)
Message layout A allows for 1 message line at a larger type size.
Message layout B allows for up to 2 message lines at a smaller type size.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign on bottom edge of beam/soffit and align sign with flow of traffic.

---

**Message Layout A**

Exit

**Message Layout B**

Exit Additional Parking
Small Beam Mounted Directional

Parking Structure Signs

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
**Small Wall Mounted Level and Directional**

**Size**
Sign Face:
915 mm H x 610 mm W
(3' 0" H x 2' 0" W)

**Description and Use**
Floor identification and directional information specifically targeted to pedestrians. Floor identification signs to be placed next to or near elevators, and exits.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)
- Message layout A is used for directional as well as floor level information.
- Message layout B is used for floor level identification.
- Message layout C is used to provide directional information.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so pedestrians have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.
Parking Structure Signs

Small Wall Mounted Level and Directional

Message Layout A

- 457 mm (1'-6")
- 610 mm (2'-0")
- 914 mm (3'-0")
- 828 mm (2'-9")
- 3 mm (1/8")

Message Layout B

- 25.4 mm (1")
- 101.6 mm (4")
- 50.8 mm (2")
- 38 mm (1-1/2")
- 95 mm (3-3/4")
- 406.4 mm (1'-4")
- 76 mm (3")

Message Layout C

- 3 mm (1/8")
- 210 mm (7"")
- 25.4 mm (1")
- 95 mm (3-3/4")
- 101.6 mm (4")
- 63.5 mm (2-1/2")
- 44.5 mm (1-3/4")
- 1220 mm (4'-0")
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Large Wall Mounted Level and Directional**

**Size**
Sign Face: 1219 mm H x 813 mm W (4' 0" H x 2' 8" W)

**Description and Use**
Floor identification and directional information specifically targeted to vehicular traffic. Floor identification signs to be placed next to or near elevators, and exits.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Message layout A is used for directional as well as floor level information.

Message layout B is used for floor level identification.

Message layout C is used to provide directional information.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.
Parking Structure Signs

Large Wall Mounted Level and Directional

Message Layout A

Message Layout B

Message Layout C
**Size**
Sign Face:
457 mm H x 1067 mm W
(1' 6" H x 3' 3" W)

**Description and Use**
Precautionary information placed strategically to avoid traffic conflict or accidents.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)
Message layout A is pedestrian regulatory sign.
Message layout B, C, D, E and F are used primarily for vehicular traffic.

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

---

**Message Layout A**
No Pedestrians on Ramp

**Message Layout B**
Watch for Pedestrians

**Message Layout C**
Merging Traffic

**Message Layout D**
Do Not Enter

**Message Layout E**
EXIT ➔

**Message Layout F**
One Way ➔
Parking Structure Signs

Wall Mounted Warning

Message Layout A & B

Message Layout C

Message Layout D

Message Layout E

Message Layout F
**Parking Structure Signs**

Square Column Marker

**Size**
Sign Face:
839 mm H x 559 mm W
(2' 9" H x 1' 10" W)

**Description and Use**
Floor level identification marker for placement on the wide faces of the column.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

---

**Message Layout A**
Parking Structure Signs

Square Column Marker

Message Layout A

PS-05.01
Parking Structure Signs

Narrow Column Marker

Size
Sign Face:
839 mm H x 407 mm W
(2' 9" H x 1' 4" W)

Description and Use
Floor level identification marker for placement on the faces of narrow columns.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

Recommendations
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

Message Layout A
Parking Structure Signs

Narrow Column Marker

Message Layout A

Dimensions:
- 76 mm (3")
- EQ
- 762 mm (2'-6")
- 838 mm (2'-9")
- 266.7 mm (10-1/2")
- 355.6 mm (1'-4")
- 3 mm (1/8")
- 57 mm (2-1/4")
- 229 mm (9")
- 1372 mm (4'-6")
Parking Structure Signs

Round Column Marker

Size
Sign Face:
610 mm H x 610 mm W
(2' 0" H x 2' 0" W)

Description and Use
Floor level identification marker for placement on round columns.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

Recommendations
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

Message Layout A
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Round Column Marker**

- **Message Layout A**

- **Dimensions:**
  - 610 mm (2'-0")
  - 2 mm (1/6")

- **Marking Heights:**
  - 50.8 mm (2")
  - 38 mm (1-1/2")
  - 63.5 mm (2-1/2")
  - 89 mm (3-1/2")
  - 266.7 mm (10-1/2")
  - 50.8 mm (2")

- **Additional Information:**
  - 1525 mm (5'-0")
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Small Round Column Marker**

**Size**
Sign Face:
559 mm H x 559 mm W
(1' 6" H x 1' 6" W)

**Description and Use**
Floor level identification marker for placement on round columns.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Surface painted

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

---

**Message Layout A**

![5](image)
Small Round Column Marker

Message Layout A

1525 mm (5'-0")

EQ

EQ

305 mm (1'-0")

EQ

454 mm (1'-6")

454 mm (1'-6")

PS-05.4 Parking Structure Signs

Page 5-5-30
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Pole Mount Marker**

**Size**
Sign Face:
839 mm H x 559 mm W
(2’ 9” H x 1’ 10” W)

**Description**
Floor Level identification marker for placement on pole.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

---

**Sign Mounted in Front and Back of Pole**

**Single Flag Mounted Sign**

**Double Flag Mounted Sign**

**Message Layout A**
Parking Structure Signs

Pole Mounted Marker

Message Layout A
Wall Mounted Identification

**Size**
Sign Face:
305 mm H x 1067 mm W
(1’ 0” H x 3’ 6” W)

**Description and Use**
Stairwell and elevator identification sign.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign so pedestrians have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

---

**Message Layout A**

- **Elevator**
- **Stairs**

Sign type: IN-01.04
PS-06.01
Parking Structure Signs
Wall Mounted Identification

Message Layout A

- 305 mm (1'-0")
- 266.7 mm (10-1/2")
- 1069 mm (3'-6")
- 889 mm (2'-11")
- 127 mm (5")
- 76 mm (3")
- 39 mm (1-1/2")

- 3 mm (1/8")
Floor Level Identification Vinyls

Size
Sign Face:
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Description and Use
Floor level identification for placement on stairwell and elevator doors.

Message layout A is aligned flush right and message layout B is aligned flush left. Either layout can be used to designate a stairwell or an elevator. Text should be aligned along the opening side of the door. Use right aligned text on doors that open from right to left and use left aligned text on doors that open from left to right.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.
Parking Structure Signs

Floor Level Identification

Message Layout A

Message Layout B
Size
Sign Face: 25 mm H (1' 0" H)

Description and Use
Floor level identification for placement inside stairwells.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Text: white, T2

Message Layout A

Message Layout B

Floor Level Identification Vinlys
Floor Level Identification Vinyls

Message Layout A
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Dimensional Letters**

**Size**
254 mm H (10” H)

**Description**
Individual letters to identify an entrance or exit.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Fabricated or cut out painted aluminum letters.

**Colors**
Text: Various

---

**Message Layout A**

Exit
Parking Structure Signs

Dimensional Letters

Message Layout A

254 mm (10")

25.4 mm (1/2")
50.8 mm (1")
**Parking Structure Signs**

**Clearance Height Bang Bar**

**Size**
Sign Face:
152 mm H x various lengths
(6" H)

**Description and Use**
Ceiling hung vehicular clearance identification marker to be placed at all entrances and at grade level changes.

Clearance height "bang bars" are required within a parking structure when clearance levels change on ramps or between floors.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: black
Background: yellow, black

**Recommendations**
"Bang bars" made from PVC provide sufficient clearance notification and will not damage vehicles upon contact. Aluminum or steel pipe can damage vehicles.

**Message Layout A**

**Clearance 7'-0"**

(Lengths will vary)

**NOTE:** Confirm actual clearance height in the parking structure. Mount bottom of sign to match clearance height stated on sign.
Message Layout A

Parking Structure Signs
Clearance Height Bang Bar

PS-09

38 mm (1-1/2")
38 mm (1-1/2")

Variable

EQ
88.9 mm (3-1/2")

152 mm (6") Ø

152 mm (6")

PS-09.01

PS-09.02
**PS-10**

## Parking Structure Signs

### Electronic Lane Use Sign

**Size**
305 mm H x 2438 mm W  
(1' 0" H x 8' 0" W)

**Description**
Sign to inform status of alternating entrance / exit lane.

**Sign Components**
Sign cabinet with electronic lane use information.

**Graphic Process**
Electronic (LED)

**Mounting**
Wall or beam mounted

**Installation**
It is recommended that this sign be installed above entry to alternating entrance/exit lane.
Electronic Lane Use Sign

Electronic (LED) messaging changes from “Parking” to “Lane Closed” as use of lane changes from entrance to an exit.
Entrance and Exit Identification

Size
Sign Face:
559 mm H x 3050 mm W
(1’ 3’’ H x 10’ 0” W)

Description
Non-illuminated, free swinging ceiling hung sign with, and without, bang bar. This sign type is directed specifically to drivers providing them entrance identification and information.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl.

Colors
Sign Face:
Text: various, refer to color chart
Background: various, refer to color chart.

Recommendations
Sign is for parking structure entrances that are high or do not have a surface to mount letters or a sign panel.

Message Layout
Parking Structure Signs

Entrance and Exit Identification

EQ 2642 mm (8'-8")
EQ 3050 mm (10'-0")

305 mm (1'-0")
381 mm (1'-3")
305 mm (1'-0")

203 mm (8")
50.8 mm (2")

76 mm (3")

See Sign Type
PS-09

Varies
Parking Structure Signs

Parking Stall Designation

Size
Sign Face: 457 mm H x 305 mm W
(1' 6" H x 1' 0" W)

Overall Sign Height: 1829 mm
(6' 0")

Description
Non-illuminated post or wall mounted parking identification and informational sign. This type of sign is for use in identifying or controlling specific parking areas, spaces or stalls.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

This sign with symbol or title and the appropriate text shall be used as shown in the adjacent examples.

Colors
Text: white
Background: refer to color chart.
Post: refer to color chart.

Graphic Process
Surface applied vinyl

Recommendations
Position sign on wall so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

When placing this type of sign near parking places, be sure the sign is set far enough back that over hanging front and rear of automobiles do not come in contact with the sign post.

Message Layout A

Message Layout B

Other possible messages for this layout
1) Visitors Only
2) Buses Only
3) Authorized Vehicles Only
4) Staff Only

Other possible messages for this layout
1) Director
2) Chief of Staff
3) Volunteers
4) Consultant
5) Motorcycle Parking
6) Officer of the Day
7) Outpatient Only
8) Government Vehicle
9) Police Only
10) Employee of the Month
11) Car Pool
Parking Structure Signs

Parking Stall Designation

Message Layout A and B

Message Layout C
Parking Structure Signs

Handicapped Parking Stall

Size
Sign Face:
457 mm H x 305 mm W
(1' 6" H x 1' 0" W)

Overall Sign Height:
1830 mm (6' 0")

Description
Wall mounted or single post, non-illuminated handicapped parking stall sign.

Message Configuration
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

Symbol and text must conform to layout as shown.

Graphic Process
Surface applied reflective vinyl.

Colors
Text: white
Background: handicap blue
Post: refer to color chart

Recommendations
Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

When placing this type of sign near parking places, be sure the sign is set far enough back that over hanging front and rear of automobiles do not come in contact with the sign post.

Wall Mounted Option

Post Mounted Option

Message Layout A

Parking Only

Message Layout B

Access

Message Layout C

Van Accessible
Handicapped Parking Stall

Message Layout A & C

Message Layout B
Parking Structure Signs

Handicapped Parking Area

**Size**

Sign Face:
610 mm H x 610 mm W
(2' 0" H x 2' 0" W)

Overall Sign Height:
1830 mm (6' 0")

**Description**

Wall mounted or single post, non-illuminated handicapped parking area sign. Identification of handicapped parking areas and directional information regarding access. These signs can also be used to provide direction information to drivers to direct them to handicapped parking that may not be obvious.

**Message Configuration**

(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)
Symbol is to remain constant.
Below symbol arrows, text or text and arrows can be used.

**Graphic Process**

Surface applied reflective vinyl.

**Colors**

Text: white
Background: handicap blue
Post: refer to color chart

**Recommendations**

Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

When placing this type of sign near parking spaces, be sure the sign is set far enough back that overhanging front and rear of automobiles do not come in contact with the sign post.
**Size**
Sign Face:
914 mm H x 610 mm W  
(3' 0" H x 2' 0" W)

**Description**
Non-illuminated wall panel sign. 
Sign used to communicate various informational or instructional messages.

**Message Configuration**
(Refer to message layout drawing for dimensions)

**Graphic Process**
Surface applied vinyl.

**Colors**
Text: white  
Background: refer to color chart  
Post: refer to color chart.

**Recommendations**
Position sign where message needs to be conveyed.

---

**Message Layout A**

**Notice**
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio dignissim qui blandit praesent

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**Parking Structure Signs**
Informational Panel
Parking Structure Signs

Informational Panel

Message Layout A

- 610 mm (2'-0")
- 38.1 mm (1-1/2")
- 914 mm (3'-0")

- 3 mm (1/8")
- 63.5 mm (2-1/2")
- 50.8 mm (2")
- 50.8 mm (2")
- 25.4 mm (1")
- 12.7 mm (1/2")

- 1220 mm (4'-0")
**Electronic Stall Availability Sign**

**Size**
Size to vary depending upon number of levels and electronic system used.

**Description**
Sign to inform visitors as to the number of available parking spaces per floor. Electronic counting devices record the number of cars that enter and exit the garage and floor levels. This information changes as the corresponding number of parking spaces per floor is reflected.

**Sign Components**
Sign cabinet with electronic occupancy information.

**Graphic Process**
Painted, screened or vinyl type/graphics with electronic (LED) occupancy information.

**Colors**
Color and materials to match rest of exterior parking structure signage.

**Mounting**
Either post mounted or wall mounted.

**Installation**
It is recommended that this sign be placed at entrance, or approaching, parking structure entry.

Examples of signs for parking structures of various levels
Sign on the left illustrates the integration of a color coded system.
Electronic Stall Availability Sign

Electronic (LED) numbers to indicate number of available spaces. Numbers change as vehicles enter and exit parking structure.

Painted aluminum posts
Painted aluminum sign cabinet

Height to vary depending upon number of levels

Minimum 127 mm (5"

Post Mounted Option

Wall Mounted Option

Entrance

Clearance 7-5"

PS-08

PS-09
Exterior Building Mounted Parking Directional/Availability Sign

**Size**
to vary approx.
1270 mm H x 1016 mm W
(4’ 2” H x 3’ 4” W)

**Description**
Illuminated double sided parking lot identification and parking stall availability sign.

**Sign Components**
Framed sign cabinet with an illuminated arrow and "parking" identification message and an electronic occupancy information portion.

**Graphic Process**
Internally illuminated directional arrow and "Parking" identification. Electronic (LED) occupancy information.

**Colors**
"P" and arrow: white, background color: blue to match T8.

**Mounting**
Mounted perpendicular to exterior wall of parking structure.

**Installation**
It is recommended that this sign be placed above, or above and adjacent to, the entrance to the parking structure.

**Layout Suggestions**
Exterior Building Mounted Parking Directional/Availability Sign

Message changes from “Open” to “Full” depending upon availability of parking

Message Layout A

Side A

Side B

Message Layout B

Message Layout C

Approximately 1279 mm (50")

Approximately 178 mm (7")

Approximately 965-1016 mm (38"-40")

Internally Illuminated “P” and arrow

Height to vary bottom of sign minimum of 3048 mm (10') from ground
**Description**
Painted parking stall numbers.

**Recommendations**
Stalls can be assigned a designated number based on a logical/sequential stall numbering system. It is recommended that each number be painted at the isle facing end of each stall. The ideal number height is 6 inches (numbers should be no less than 4 inches in height).

**Graphic Process**
Painted stenciled numbers.

**Colors**
Colors need to contrast the parking structure flooring. If the floor is a light colored concrete, the numbers should be black. If the floor is a dark color, the numbers should be white.
**Regulatory Signs**

**Parking Structure Signs**

### Size
Sign Face:
Refer to Exterior Sign Types.

### Description
Parking and traffic regulatory signs.

### Recommendations
Display the most commonly used signs as indicated. If other Traffic Regulatory and Warning Signs are needed, refer to MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices).

Position sign so drivers have a clear, unobstructed view of the sign.

It should be noted that the decision to use a particular traffic control device at a specific location should be made on the basis of a standard traffic engineering study of the location. Sign size should be based on traffic conditions. Where these conditions are the same, all signs of a similar type should be the same size.

See Sheet EN-06.08 for Details

See Sheet EN0.08 for Details

Parking For Government Employees

See Sheet EN10.1 for Other Traffic Regulatory Signs and Details
Parking Structure Signs

Identification Signs

**Size**
Sign Face:
Refer to Interior Sign Types.

**Description**
Information and room identification.

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IN CASE OF FIRE, USE STAIRS. DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.

NO EXIT

44444
Mechanical Room

Elevator

PS-06
**Description**
Painted and/or vinyl options for garage core identification.

**Graphic Process**
Painted or applied vinyl graphics.

**Recommendations**
It is recommended that all painted graphics use contrasting color combinations as well as a color coding system to easily differentiate one floor from the next. Color coding system should be consistent amongst all signs and graphics on a given floor. For example, if a particular blue is used to designate floor 1, that same blue should be used throughout floor 1, on all signs using a color coded system.

Painted graphics may consist of a light color on a dark painted background or a dark color on a light painted background. Background color may extend the entire length of a garage core wall or may be limited to a designated section surrounding the stair and elevator doors. Graphics should be large enough to read from a distance.

Vinyl Wraps may be applied to stair and/or elevator doors. Vinyl graphics include floor specific imagery and color. Imagery may be in the form of an illustrated graphic, graphic pattern, or a photographic image. The vinyl may be applied to the entire surface of a door or a selected portion.

In developing an approach to applying a graphic language, to distinguish one floor from the next, one should be consistent with the type of graphic treatment throughout the parking structure. For example, if on floor one a photographic image covers the entire stair and elevator doors, a photographic image should be applied in the same position on all subsequent floors. Imagery may change, however the approach and placement should remain consistent.

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**Garage core graphics:**
Light background color with graphics painted a darker color.

**Garage core graphics:**
Dark painted background color with graphics painted a lighter color.

**Vinyl graphic applied to stair and elevator doors.**
Examples show applied graphic as a silhouetted image.

**Vinyl graphic applied to stair and elevator doors.**
Examples show applied graphic as a photographic image.
**Description**
Options for painted columns / column markers and overhead directional messaging.

**Graphic Process**
Painted graphics/messaging.

**Recommendations**
It is recommended that all painted graphics use contrasting color combinations as well as a color coding system to easily differentiate one floor from the next.

Messaging for painted overhead directional signage should be placed on the bottom portion of the beam (messaging on the top portion of the beam is less visible). Messaging should have a capital height of no less than 4 inches.

Column graphics may consist of a light color on a dark painted background or a dark color on a light painted background. Background color may extend the entire length of the column or may be limited to a designated section behind the painted number. Painted numbers need to be large enough to read from a distance.
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The specifications for signs are available in the Master Construction Specifications (PG-18-1) area of the VA Technical Information Library, which is available on the VA web site under Office of Construction & Facilities Management.

www.cfm.va.gov/til/

Refer to Signage in the specifications, Division 10, Section 10 14 00.

For more information regarding specifications, contact the Office of Construction & Facilities Management, Facility Standards Service.

The specifications require close coordination, taking into account the existing sign program at a medical center, any sign demolition, sign maintenance and future signing needs.

When preparing the specifications for a project, it will require editing to add and indicate new signs or eliminate signs that are not needed. Also, it will be necessary to adapt the specifications to project requirements required for the specific project in which they are intended.

The sign message schedule is considered a part of the specifications and would comprise a portion of the spec section. The configuration and format of the message schedule may vary according to individual project requirements. The sign message schedule format is shown in the Need a Sign Program section of the VA Signage Design Guide. It provides the method for identifying each sign location, type and message along with other notations. The sign schedule contains important information that the sign manufacturer and the sign installer will require for manufacturing and sign installation.

The sign message schedule must be coordinated with a sign location plan drawing showing where signs are to be placed within a building or on the site. Refer to the sign location plan example shown in the Need a Sign Program section of the VA Signage Design Guide.

For convenience, the sign type drawings can also be included in the specifications as it own section.
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PS Construction Detail 1
Sign Types: PS-01.01, PS-01.02, PS-01.03, PS-01.04

- Stainless steel cable
- Mechanical compression sleeve or swage as needed to support weight of sign
- Eye bolt as needed to support weight of sign
- Panels assembled with tamper resistant mechanical fasteners
- Support frame from aluminum angle welded to sign panel
- All hardware used shall be corrosion resistant
- Sign panel with painted finish

PS Construction Detail 2
Sign Types: PS-02.01, PS-02.02, PS-02.03, PS-02.04

- Shallow hole expansion anchor rated to support sign weight. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4” into concrete
- Sign panel with painted finish
- Mounting bracket from aluminum angle mechanically fastened to concrete
- Support frame from aluminum angle welded to sign panel
- Panels assembled together with tamper resistant mechanical fasteners
- All hardware used to be corrosion resistant
**PS Construction Detail 3**  
Sign Types: PS-05.01, PS-05.02  
PS-03 and PS-04 similar

Drive rivet nail-in anchor with heads painted to match adjacent color. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4” into concrete.

Painted aluminum sign panel

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**PS Construction Detail 4**  
Sign Types: PS-05.03

Drive rivet nail-in anchor with heads painted to match adjacent color. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4” into concrete.

Painted aluminum sign panel at thickness panel as needed to follow curve of column.
**Sign Types:** PS-09 and PS-11

**Concrete**

- Shallow hole expansion anchor rated to support sign weight. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4" into concrete.

- Pivot point through bolt with compression springs as mounting point for sign cabinet/bang bar assembly.

- Galvanized steel channel pivot/mounting bracket mechanically fastened to ceiling at two points with bolts and expansion anchors.

- Aluminum vertical support welded to sign cabinet with through hole for attachment to anchored pivot bracket.

- Fabricated aluminum sign cabinet painted all sides welded to vertical support.

- All hardware used to be corrosion resistant.

**Eye bolt as needed to support weight of sign.**

**Stainless steel cable and mechanical compression sleeve or swage as needed to support weight of sign.**

**Mechanical compression sleeve or swage cable stop as needed to support weight of bang bar.**

**PVC Bang bar with capped ends.**

**1/8" dia. weep hole at center of beam.**
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**Parking Structure Signs**

**PS Installation Detail 1**
Sign Types: PS-01.01, PS-01.02, PS-01.03 and PS-01.04

- Concrete
- Shallow hole expansion anchor rated to support sign weight. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4" into concrete
- Eye bolt as needed to support weight of sign
- Stainless steel cable with mechanical compression sleeve or swage as needed to support weight of sign
- Eye bolt as needed to support weight of sign
- All hardware used to be corrosion resistant

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3/4" Max

Sign
**PS Installation Detail 2**  
Sign Types: PS-01.01, PS-01.02, PS-01.03 and PS-01.04

Cross bracing cable hanging method to be used on all hanging signs where the ceiling to sign hang distance is 2'-0" or greater or in areas of excessive wind.  

**NOTE:** Hanging signs subjected to windy conditions should be mounted with 3 wires and triangulated.

Shallow hole expansion anchor rated to support sign weight. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4" into concrete.

Stainless steel cable cross bracing with mechanical compression sleeve or swage as needed to support weight of sign.

**Concrete**

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**PG Installation Detail 3**  
Sign Types: PS-02.01, PS-02.02, PS-02.03 and PS-02.04

Shallow hole expansion anchor rated to support sign weight. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4" into concrete.

**3/4" Max**

**Concrete joist**

Mounting bracket from interlocking angle with set screw attachment to sign panel

All hardware used to be corrosion resistant
Installation

Parking Structure Signs

PS Installation Detail 4
Sign Types: PS-05.01 and PS-05.02

Concrete column

Drive rivet nail-in anchor with heads painted to match adjacent color. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4” into concrete.

Painted aluminum sign panel at thickness needed to follow curve of column.

PS Installation Detail 5
Sign Type: PS-05.03, PS-05.03

Concrete column

Drive rivet nail-in anchor with heads painted to match adjacent color. Depth of anchor not to exceed 3/4” into concrete.

Painted aluminum sign panel at thickness needed to follow curve of column.

Wall Mounting
Non-Illuminated Signs
Aluminum wall panel signs shall be fastened with a minimum of 2 mechanical fasteners.

Anchors should be provided in the wall that are suitable for the particular type of wall surface where the sign is being installed.

Vandal-proof screws, painted to match sign face.