

Mr. Patrick Kennedy, HDA-DE

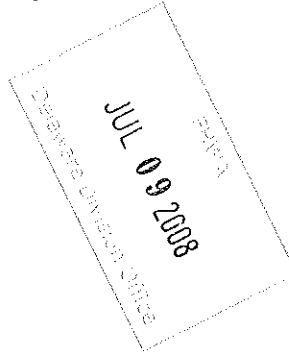


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

July 1, 2008

In Reply Refer To: HOTO-1



Mr. Robert Hutson, Jr.
Transportation Systems Specialist
Delaware Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

Dear Mr. Hutson:

Thank you for your May 28 letter requesting formal approval for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to participate in the use of Clearview fonts on State highways in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Interim Approval for Use of the Clearview Font for Positive Contrast Legends on Guide Signs dated September 2, 2004.

Please be advised that DelDOT is hereby granted approval to use the Clearview font for positive contrast legends on guide signs in accordance with the requirements of the FHWA Interim Approval and the general requirements of an Interim Approval outlined in Section 1A.10 of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*. Please be especially aware of the following when using Clearview:

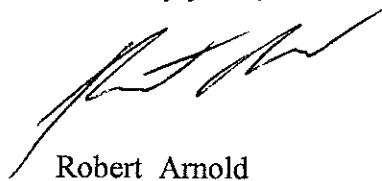
- The use of Clearview as an alternative to the Standard Alphabets is restricted to positive-contrast legends only, as this contrast orientation is the only one that has demonstrated an improvement in legibility distance to date. The use of Clearview in negative-contrast orientations has been shown to decrease legibility distance when compared with the FHWA Standard Alphabet series.
- The greatest improvement in legibility distance afforded by Clearview was realized by older drivers when viewed under headlamp illumination during nighttime conditions (an increase in legibility distance of between 6.0 percent and 6.8 percent).
- The percentage improvement in legibility distance indicated by the studies referenced in the Interim Approval are based on the cumulative effect of a change in both the alphabet (Series E-modified to Clearview-5-W) and a change in the retroreflective sheeting (Encapsulated Lens to Microprismatic) used. The use of Standard Alphabet Series E-modified with Microprismatic retroreflective sheeting also produced an improvement in legibility over use of the same with Encapsulated Lens sheeting.

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- Mixed-case legends are restricted to place names and destinations; all other messages such as action and distance messages, cardinal directions, and auxiliary designations shall remain composed of all upper-case characters employing the criteria in the MUTCD.
- Fractional distances shall use the standard format of one-and-one-half times the height of the numerals within the fraction. The height of the numerals within the fraction shall be the same as the height of the letters in the distance units. The numerator and denominator of the fraction shall be diagonally arranged about the solidus.
- When instituting a system of freeway and expressway guide signs using Clearview, it is expected that the standard character spacing (5-W) will be used for the majority of the signs along the system. Clearview 5-W-R provides for a reduced spacing in those limited situations where an existing sign support structure does not have the design capacity to accommodate the increase in sign area necessitated by the use of Clearview 5-W, with a standard letter spacing. The legibility of Clearview 5-W-R was found to be comparable to that of Series E-modified.

For recordkeeping purposes, we have assigned this Interim Approval the following number and title: "IA-5.26, Clearview—Delaware DOT." Please refer to this number and title in any future correspondence. We look forward to receiving the results of your comparison between the alternative and Standard alphabets. If we can be of further assistance or in the event of further questions, please contact Mr. Kevin Sylvester of the FHWA MUTCD Team at 202-366-2161.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Arnold
Director, Office of Transportation
Operations

cc: Mr. Patrick Kennedy, HDA-DE



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
800 BAY ROAD
P.O. BOX 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

CAROLANN WICKS, P.E.
SECRETARY

May 28, 2008

Federal Highway Administration
Office of Transportation Operations (HOTO-1)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sirs:

RE: Request for Interim Approval: Clearview Font

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is requesting interim approval for the use of Clearview font on guide signs as an experiment to compare this font to standard Highway Gothic font.

DelDOT agrees to comply with item "F" on page 1A-6 under the Guidance section for interim approval of the 2003 MUTCD and will terminate the use of this font should any significant safety concerns arise that are attributable to this font or its application.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (302) 760-2563.

Sincerely,

Robert Hutson, Jr.
Transportation Systems Specialist

RH:s

cc: Thomas E. Greve, Central District Engineer
Donald Weber, Chief Traffic Engineer
Patrick Kennedy, Federal Highway
G. Rick Tracy, Signing Operations Manager