

Countywide Lighting Ordinance Amendments

SECTION 11 LIGHTING IN OUTDOOR AREAS (Residential and Non-Residential)

1. Other than flood lights and flood lamps, all outdoor area and parking lot lighting fixtures of more than 2,000 lumens shall be full cutoff fixtures, or comply with subsection 911.4 below.
2. The mounting height of all outdoor lighting, except outdoor sports field lighting and outdoor performance area lighting shall not exceed thirty-seven (37) feet above finished grade, unless approved by the Board of Adjustment as having no adverse effect.

4. Exceptions:
 - c. Temporary lighting for special events of short duration. Typically these are low wattage or low voltage applications for public festivals, celebrations, and the observance of holidays, carnivals, and celebrations. Portable (non-permanent) internally-illuminated signs come under this classification and, as such, can be used for up to thirty (30) days only.
 - d. Airport lighting controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
 - e. Lighting of the United States of America and State of North Carolina flags and other flags or insignia of any governmental entity.
 - ~~f. Lighting equipment specified or identified in a specific special use or conditional use permit.~~
 - g.f. Lighting equipment required by laws and/or regulation of a government, authority or entity having applicable jurisdiction.

SECTION 12 LIGHTING FOR VEHICULAR CANOPIES

Areas under a vehicular canopy shall have an average maximum horizontal illuminance of twenty-four (24) maintained footcandles (FC). Areas outside the vehicular canopy shall be regulated by the standards of Section 911 above. Lighting under vehicular canopies shall be designed so as not to create glare off-site. Acceptable methods include one or both of the following:

SECTION 15 LIGHTING OF OUTDOOR DISPLAY AREAS

The following provisions apply to outdoor display areas except for car dealership parking lots, as specified in item (4), below:

- (1) Parking lot outdoor areas shall be illuminated in accordance with the requirements for Section 911 above. Outdoor display areas shall have a maximum average maintained illuminance of twenty-four (24) maintained footcandles.
- (2) All light fixtures shall meet the IESNA definition of cutoff fixtures. Forward throw fixtures (type IV light distribution, as defined by the IESNA) are required within twenty-five (25) feet of any public street right-of-way. Alternatively, directional fixtures (such as floodlights) may be used provided they shall be aimed in accordance with subsections 8.3 and 8.4 of this ordinance.

SECTION 17 PERMANENT SIGN AND BILLBOARD LIGHTING

Lighting fixtures illuminating signs and billboards shall be aimed and shielded so that direct illumination is focused exclusively on the sign. Internally illuminated signs shall be prohibited. Externally lighted signs shall be lighted from the top of the sign downward. The Lighting Administrator can waive this requirement in rare and unusual cases if it is demonstrated that the physical location of light fixtures for top down aiming is not possible. The maximum watts permitted to illuminate a sign are determined by multiplying the sign face area by 2 watts per square foot.

Exception: Signs less than 7 feet (2 meters) in height above grade may be illuminated by ground mounted uplighting not exceeding 100 lamp watts per sign face.

NOTE: Refer to Section 911.4(c) regarding portable internally illuminated signs.