

UDC Interpretation	#14-03	
	Clarification of rules for signs on solid, flat-roofed awnings	
	UDC Section: 50-27.7.C	Date of Interpretation: 2/28/2014
Approved by:	Charles Froseth, Land Use Supervisor 	

BACKGROUND: The Unified Development Chapter of the City of Duluth Legislative Code (UDC) is the official body of rules and regulations to guide land use and development in the City of Duluth, Minnesota. UDC Sec. 50-10 *Interpretation* authorizes the Land Use Supervisor to interpret the provisions of this Chapter.

The question was asked: What materials are allowed for a solid, flat-roofed awning and how may any signs that are installed on top of this type of awning be illuminated?

CODE INFORMATION: The City adopted a new sign code on April 14, 2013. The Planning Commission included the allowance for these types of solid, flat-roofed awnings through graphically depicting them and specifying a maximum letter height. Sec. 50-27.7.C.4 specifies the allowed materials, but this paragraph appears to only contemplate the traditional sloped awning and not the solid, flat-roofed style of awning. Additionally, Sec. 50-27.7.C.6 specifies that letters up to 24" tall may be attached to the top of a solid awning, but doesn't specify how these types of letters may be illuminated. The provisions of Sec. 50-27.7.C.7 allow goose-neck extension to be used to illuminated awnings, but it doesn't seem plausible to require this type of illumination when the awning extends more than a short distance from the building.

UDC INTERPRETATION:

The materials allowed for solid, flat-roofed awnings is expanded to include finished wood, wood and plastic composites, metal or metal cladding, stucco or EIFS. Signs mounted to these solid, flat-roofed awnings are limited to individually-mounted letters with internal illumination (if illuminated) or a sign board with external illumination – no internally illuminated cabinet signs. The City anticipates a technical correction to Sec. 50-27.7.C will be part of the annual UDC amendment package in late 2014 or early 2015.

DISCLAIMER: While it is the intent of the administration to submit a technical correction to the City Council consistent with this interpretation, the code can only be amended by City Council action. This interpretation is not intended to be a promise or guarantee that the proposed amendment will be enacted.