

UDC Interpretation	#14-05	
	Clarification of sign permit exemption for cabinet signs	
	UDC Section: 50-27.6.A	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: Is a sign permit required when removing the existing fabric covering from an awning sign and replacing it with new fabric? Does the exemption in Sec. 50-27.6.A.3 apply to awning signs?

CODE INFORMATION: The City adopted a new sign code on April 14, 2013. Exemptions for sign permits were established in Sec. 50-27.6 for things like repainting or cleaning of an existing sign, changing the message on a changeable message sign, or changing out the sign face on a cabinet sign.

UDC INTERPRETATION:

Because of the way that sign area is calculated for awing signs (sign area must be less than 30% of the awning area), recovering an existing awning often results in a change in the sign area. It is necessary for the City to review the proposed sign area on the recovered awning for compliance with the 30% requirement and, therefore a sign permit must be submitted by the applicant to facilitate the review. This is contrasted to the situation where the plastic face is replaced in a cabinet sign and the sign area does not change because it is calculated at the cabinet frame. The City anticipates a technical correction to Sec. 50-27.6.A 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.