

W8-24: Steel Plate Ahead

- A is the length of each edge of the sign.
- B is the inset from the edge of the sign to the border.
- C is the border width.
- D is the letter height and FHWA standard font for each line.
- E is the space between the lines.
- F is the distance from the horizontal center of the sign to the top of the second line.
- G is the distance from the horizontal center of the sign to the bottom of the second line.
- H is the distance from the vertical center of the sign to the left edge of the word on the first line.
- J is the distance from the vertical center of the sign to the right edge of the word on the first line.
- K is the distance from the vertical center of the sign to the left edge of the word on the second line.
- L is the distance from the vertical center of the sign to the right edge of the word on the second line.
- M is the distance from the vertical center of the sign to the left edge of the word on the third line.
- N is the distance from the vertical center of the sign to the right edge of the word on the third line.
- P is the corner radius.

W8-24 Steel Plate Ahead

Layout & Engineering Reference · MUTCDSignChart.com



Standard Dimensions

Width (W)	36"
Height (H)	36"
Shape	Diamond
Minimum size	48" × 48" on conventional roads; 60" × 60"

Standard Sizes (MUTCD)

Nominal	Dimensions	Typical Use
30 in	30" × 30"	Low-speed and local roadways
36 in	36" × 36"	Conventional roads
48 in	48" × 48"	Conventional roads (California TTC minimum)
60 in	60" × 60"	Expressways and freeways

Mounting & Reflectivity

- Urban: 7 ft min. to bottom of sign.
- Rural: 5 ft min. to bottom of sign.
- Lateral: 6–12 ft from edge of traveled way.
- Sheeting: high-intensity or diamond-grade retroreflective.

Notes

Warns that steel plates (trench plates) are in place on the roadway ahead, alerting drivers to the change in surface and possible bump. Verify final size, placement, legend, and retroreflective sheeting against the current CA MUTCD, Caltrans Sign Specifications, and the reviewing agency before fabrication.

Specifications

Standard Shape	Diamond
Background Color	Orange
Legend / Symbol	Black legend
Border	Black
Reflectivity	High Intensity (for nighttime visibility)
Compliance	MUTCD / CA MUTCD

References

MUTCD / CA	CA MUTCD Part 6 (Temporary Traffic Control),
FHWA SHS	FHWA Standard Highway Signs, 2024 (11th
Source	Caltrans Sign Specifications / Standard Plans