

TCP Sign Legend Reference

How a traffic control plan sign legend works — how signs are called out by code, description, and quantity, with a common legend format.

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California Context

- This reference is based on the California MUTCD 2026 (effective January 18, 2026). California uses the CA MUTCD — its own adoption of the federal MUTCD with state modifications — not the federal manual alone.
- For work on state highways in the Los Angeles / Ventura region, Caltrans District 7 reviews encroachment permits and the associated traffic control plans.
- Local agencies add requirements on top of the CA MUTCD: work in City of Los Angeles right-of-way needs a city street-use / sidewalk-closure permit (reviewed by StreetsLA and the Bureau of Engineering); work on county roads needs an LA County DPW permit.
- Sign sizes, retroreflectivity, spacing, and placement must meet CA MUTCD minimums — local agencies may require larger signs or additional devices based on roadway classification, speed, pedestrian volume, and proximity to schools or transit.

What is a sign legend on a TCP?

A sign legend is the table on a traffic control plan (TCP) that lists every sign used on the plan. It ties each symbol shown on the plan sheet to its sign code, a plain description, and the quantity required, so the field crew can build the setup exactly as drawn and the reviewer can confirm it.

How signs are called out

- Sign code — the MUTCD / CA MUTCD designation, e.g. W20-1.
- Description — the sign's plain name, e.g. ROAD WORK AHEAD.
- Quantity — how many of that sign the setup requires.
- Many legends also list the sign size and the retroreflective sheeting class.

Common sign legend format

CODE	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QTY
W20-1	ROAD WORK AHEAD	48" x 48"	2
W20-7	FLAGGER (symbol)	48" x 48"	2
W3-4	BE PREPARED TO STOP	48" x 48"	2
G20-2	END ROAD WORK	48" x 24"	1
R11-2	ROAD CLOSED	48" x 30"	1

Sizes and quantities above are illustrative only — actual sign sizes follow the Caltrans sign specifications and the roadway type, and

quantities depend on the specific setup.

Need help building a TCP sign legend?

Contact Public Ready for TCP sign legends, permit coordination, and project-ready sign packages.