

Selected Excerpts from the City of Albuquerque Zoning Code Regarding Outdoor Lighting Regulations As of 2012

CHAPTER 14: ZONING, PLANNING AND BUILDING

ARTICLE 16: ZONING CODE

PART 3: GENERAL REGULATIONS

□ § 14-16-3-9 AREA LIGHTING REGULATIONS.

(A) The location of the lighting fixture together with its cut-off angle shall be such that it does not directly shine on any public right-of-way or any other residential premises.

(B) It shall not have an off-site luminance greater than 1,000 footlamberts; it shall not have an off-site luminance greater than 200 footlamberts measured from any private property in a residential zone.

(C) Where on-site lighting is provided, the location of all light poles shall be indicated on the site plan.

(D) For sites smaller than five acres, the maximum height of a light pole, measured from the finished grade to the top of the pole, shall be 20 feet.

(E) For sites five or more acres, the maximum height of a light pole, measured from the finished grade to the top of the pole, shall be 30 feet.

(F) The maximum height of a light pole, measured from the finished grade to the top of the pole, within 100 feet of a residential zone shall be 16 feet.

("74 Code, § 7-14-40I) (Am. Ord. 36-2002)

[If curious about the pole height limitations, see O-02-19 on the City's LEGISTAR system which tracks City Council action for the full history of the light pole height limitations amendments to the zoning code that passed in July 2002. Note that the other area lighting regulations above have been in the zoning code for many years, i.e., apparently since 1974. (Go to <http://www.cabq.gov/council/legportal.html> .)]

□ § 14-16-3-18 GENERAL BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN REGULATIONS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USES.

(D) Design Standards - All Non-Residential Uses.

(6) Gas Fueling Canopies. Gas fueling canopies and canopy fascia shall be similar in color and texture to the major building on a site. All under-canopy lighting shall be recessed so that no light lens projects below the canopy ceiling. The canopy fascia shall not be internally illuminated.

(Ord. 10-2004)

□ § 14-16-3-5 GENERAL SIGN REGULATIONS

(C) Regulations Applicable to Signs in All Zones.

(1) Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited and shall be removed or brought into conformance in accordance with § 14-16-4-11 of this Zoning Code:

(e) Rotating, pulsating or oscillating beacons of light, including searchlights used for commercial or promotional purposes.

(k) Signs with high intensity electronic discharge strobe lights.

(D) Regulations Applicable to Signs in or Within 40 Feet of Residential Zones. The additional provisions of this section apply to all signs in a residential zone or within 40 feet of a residential zone. In the case of a nonresidential zone within 40 feet of a residential zone, the more restrictive of these regulations or the regular sign regulations in the nonresidential zone shall apply.

(1) No portion of an illuminated sign shall have a luminance greater than 200 footlamberts at night.

(2) Electronic signs shall not exceed an illumination level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light as measured using a foot candle meter at a preset distance depending on sign area, measured as follows:

Area of Sign sq. ft.	Measurement Distance (ft.)
10	32
15	39
20	45
25	50
30	55
35	59
40	63
45	67
50	71
55	74
60	77
65	81
70	84
75	87
80	89
85	92
90	95
95	97
100	100

For signs with an area in square feet other than those specifically listed in the above table the measurement distance may be calculated with the following formula: Measurement Distance = The Square Root of the following: The Area of Sign Sq. Ft. x 100.

(3) No sign nor part of a sign shall move, flash, or rotate. No sign or any part of any sign shall change its message or picture at a rate more often than once each eight seconds, with the exception of wind devices, the motion of which is not restricted. No sign shall include motion of the message or image. Transition between messages or images on an electronic sign shall not exceed one second and shall not include any visual effects..

(4) No more than one sign per premises shall be illuminated, apart from the general illumination of the premises, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

(E) Regulations Applicable to Electronic Signs.

(1) Electronic signs shall include a photo cell to control brightness. Any previously permitted electronic sign shall be turned off from sunset to sunrise until the sign is brought into compliance for brightness.

(2) No electronic sign shall move, flash, or rotate, or change its message or picture at a rate more often than once each eight seconds, with the exception of wind devices, the motion of which is not restricted. No sign or part of a sign shall change its illumination more than once an hour.

(3) No sign shall include motion of the message or image. Transition between messages or images on an electronic sign shall not exceed one second and shall not include any visual effects.

(4) No more than one sign per premises shall be illuminated, apart from the general illumination of the premises, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; provided however that this provision shall not apply to signs that only display gasoline prices at establishments for retail sales of gasoline, oil, and liquefied petroleum.

(5) Illuminated signs with a 360 degree display are prohibited.

(6) If a premise meets the requirements for a free standing electronic sign, with at least 100 feet of street frontage, then the premise is prohibited from having an electronic sign that is a wall sign or canopy sign. If a premise does not meet the requirements for a free standing sign, that premise shall be permitted one electronic sign that can be a wall sign or canopy sign.

(F) Regulations Applicable to Signs in Nonresidential Zones. The additional provisions of this section apply to all signs not in a residential zone or within 40 feet of a residential zone.

(1) General Illumination.

(a) No light bulb used to indicate time or temperature shall have a rating greater than 40 watts; no reflectors shall be used in connection with such bulbs.

(b) No portion of an illuminated sign, apart from light bulbs used to indicate time or temperature, shall have a luminance greater than 320 footlamberts at night. Electronic signs shall include a photo cell to control brightness. Any previously permitted electronic sign shall be turned off from sunset to sunrise until the sign is brought into compliance on brightness

(c) Electronic signs shall not exceed an illumination level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light as measured using a foot candle meter at a preset distance depending on sign area, measured as follows:

Area of Sign sq. ft.	Measurement Distance (ft.)
10	32
15	39
20	45
25	50
30	55
35	59
40	63
45	67
50	71
55	74
60	77
65	81
70	84
75	87
80	89
85	92
90	95
95	97
100	100

For signs with an area in square feet other than those specifically listed in the above table the measurement distance may be calculated with the following formula:

Measurement Distance = The Square Root of the following: The Area of Sign Sq. Ft. x 100.

- (2) Any illuminated sign, or any illuminated element of any sign, may turn on or off, or change its brightness, provided that:
 - (a) Change of illumination does not produce any apparent motion of the visual image, including but not limited to illusion of moving objects, moving patterns or bands of light, expanding or contracting shapes, or any similar effect of animation except twinkling. Transition between messages or images on an electronic sign shall not exceed one second and shall not include any visual effects, meaning any transitional images or changes to the message before the new message appears.
 - (b) There is no continuous or sequential flashing in which more than one-third of the lights are turned on or off at one time.
 - (c) The sign is not within 200 feet of a residential zone and visible from such zone.
- (3) No sign or any part of any sign may move or rotate at a rate more often than once each ten seconds, or change its message or picture at a rate more often than once each eight seconds, with the exception of wind devices, the motion of which is not restricted.

§ 14-16-3-22 FORM BASED ZONES

- (C) Components. Building Types, Street Design, Parking, Lighting, Signage, Usable Open Space
 - (6) Lighting.
 - (a) Area lighting. Shall be per the Zoning Code (§ [14-16-3-9](#)).
 - (b) Pedestrian street lights. Pedestrian street lights shall be located between 13 feet and 16 feet above grade with a maximum average spacing (per block face) of 60 feet on center. Pedestrian street lights must be placed two feet from the back of curb on each side of the street and travel lanes, unless otherwise indicated. Street lighting and street trees should not conflict.
 - (c) Exterior building lights. On the street front elevation, exterior lights shall be mounted between six feet and 14 feet above adjacent grade.
 - (d) Alley lighting. All lots with alleys shall have lighting fixtures within five feet of the alley's edge of pavement where it does not conflict with vehicle access and circulation. The fixture shall illuminate the alley, be between eight and 12 feet in height, and not cause glare into adjacent lots. When a structure in the lot is within five feet of the alley's edge, the lighting fixture shall be attached to the structure and not to a light pole.
 - (e) Lighting elements. Lighting elements shall be compact fluorescent, metal halide, LED, or halogen only. No HID or fluorescent tube lights (excepting compact fluorescent bulbs) may be used on the exterior of buildings.
 - (f) Floodlights and directional lights. Floodlights or directional lights may be used to illuminate alleys, parking garages and working (maintenance) areas, but must be shielded or aimed in such a way that they do not shine into other lots or the street.

§ 14-16-3-2 SHOPPING CENTER REGULATIONS

- (D) Large Retail Facility Regulations.
 - (3) Site division.
 - (b) Primary and secondary driveways (or platted roadways) that separate the blocks shall be between 60 feet and 85 feet wide and shall include the following:

5. Pedestrian scale lighting that provides at least an illumination of 1.2 to 2.5 foot candles or the equivalent foot lamberts; and

(5) Site Design.

(k) Lighting.

1. Ornamental poles and luminaries, a maximum of 16 feet in height, shall be used as pedestrian scale lighting.
2. The maximum height of a light pole, other than those along pedestrian walkways, shall be 20 feet, measured from the finished grade to the top of the pole.
3. All on-site lighting fixtures shall be fully shielded to prevent fugitive light from encroaching into adjacent properties and/or right-of-way.

§ 14-16-3-17 WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATIONS

(A) Basic Requirements.

(3) Lighting and Signage:

(a) Only security lighting or lighting required by a state and/or federal agency is allowed, provided:

1. The location of the lighting fixture together with its cut-off angle shall be such that it does not shine directly on any public right-of-way or any residential premises.
2. The lighting shall not have an off-site luminance greater than 1,000 footlamberts; it shall not have an off-site luminance greater than 200 footlamberts measured from any private property in a residential zone.

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