

Ground Signs

Building Services Information Sheet

Last Updated: August 2020

This information sheet outlines the Building Department's policy for requiring professional design for ground signs.

Most ground signs are regulated by the Ontario Building Code and are required to be designed to Part 4 of the Building Code (Structural Design). Part 4 requires the consideration of wind load on signs which can result in very large forces and overturning moments on the sign structure. The magnitude of these forces is affected by both the height and area of the sign.

This necessitates a structural design of the sign itself and the supporting foundation.

All ground signs, except those noted below, shall be designed by a professional Structural Engineer registered in the Province of Ontario:

- a) The maximum height of the sign does not exceed 8 ft (2.4 m), and the maximum area of the sign does not exceed 32 ft² (3m²) or
- b) The maximum height of the sign does not exceed 6 ft (1.8 m), and the maximum area of the sign does not exceed 64 ft² (6m²).

