

**THE ILLINOIS STATE TOLL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**

**March 8, 2016**

**DESIGN BULLETIN No. 16-01**

**SUBJECT: Policy for the Use of E Modified Fonts**


On January 25, 2016, the Federal Highway Administration published in the Federal Register a Notice of Termination of Interim Approval IA-5, Use of Clearview Font for Positive Contrast Legends on Guide Signs. As a result, the Illinois Tollway will be required to utilize E Modified fonts for sign designs where Clearview fonts had previously been used.

The Illinois Tollway will use E Modified fonts for guide sign designs restricted to the below stated requirements, effective February 25, 2016. The attached illustration specifies the proper fonts to be used for typical Illinois Tollway guide signs.

- E Modified font shall be used on Illinois Tollway guide signs.
- E Modified font shall only be used for the positive contrast portion of signs meaning white lettering on a green, brown or blue background.
- E Modified font shall only be used for mixed-case lettering (place, names and destinations) and shall not be used for any text that is all upper-case or special characters.
- E Modified font shall not be used for any numbers except when numbers are used as part of a street name such as 75th Street.
- The lower case loop height for lower case letters is 75% of the upper case height.
- The reason Series E Modified is called 'modified' is that the letter stroke (width of lines making up letter) is modified to be 20% of the letter height.

Construction Contracts that are advertised before February 25, 2016 that include signs designed with Clearview fonts may fabricate and install those signs as designed. Furthermore, signs currently installed with Clearview fonts may remain as long as they are in a serviceable condition.

Design Section Engineers (DSE) are expected to incorporate this Design Bulletin into all contracts currently under design. Exceptions to this directive shall be coordinated with the project engineer and documented as a design deviation.

  
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Paul D. Kovacs, P.E.  
Chief Engineer

03/09/16  
Date

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Attachment

