



NYC Buildings Department  
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Robert D. LiMandri, Commissioner



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## BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2009-001

### Technical

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**Supersedes:** None

**Issuer:** Fatma M. Amer, P.E.  
First Deputy Commissioner

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**Purpose:** This document is provided to clarify the means of measuring the size and weight of signs that may be erected by a licensed sign hanger.

**Related Code Section(s):** AC 28-415 BC 3201.8 (definition of sign) BC H102.1 (definition of sign) 28 401.3 (definition of sign)

**Subject(s):** Sign, Sign hangers, size, weight, size of signs, weight of signs, licenses

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In accordance with Title 28 of the Administrative Code, section 28-415.1, a sign may only be hoisted, lowered, or hung upon or on the outside of any building by or under the direct and continuing supervision of a person licensed as a sign hanger. A licensed sign hanger is classified as either a Special Sign Hanger or a Master Sign Hanger in section 28-415.3. A licensed Special Sign Hanger may hoist, lower, hang or attach signs 150 square feet or less in surface area and 1,200 lbs or less in weight. A licensed Master Sign Hanger may hoist, lower, hang or attach signs of any size with no restrictions as to size or weight.

However, the building code definitions of sign do not offer a standard means of measuring the surface area or weight of a sign. The department's interpretation is that when determining the surface area and weight of a given sign for the purposes of applying section 28-415.3, the surface area and weight of all portions of the sign, including individual letters, groups of letters, structural supports, symbols, images, or portions thereof, are to be considered in the aggregate, even if such sign is erected in stages or portions over time.

All sign applications shall include the surface area and weight calculations for the sign in its entirety in order to obtain a permit.

Failure to comply with this requirement or with the limits set forth in section 28-415.3 for signs erected by a licensed Special Sign Hanger shall be subject to violations as provided for in the Administrative Code.