

Chapter 62

SIGNS

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[**HISTORY:** Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Haines 11-6-1989 by Ord. No. 22. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Building construction — See Ch. 35.

ARTICLE I Definitions

§ 62-1. Terms defined; word usage.

A. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context.

BOARD — The Board of Supervisors of Haines Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania.

PERSON — Any natural person, partnership, firm, association, corporation or other legal entity.

PREMISES — Area occupied by a business or other public enterprise. When more than one business occupies a single building on the ground floor, each business area shall be considered a separate premise. A business or other public enterprise which occupies other floors shall be considered a separate premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREA — The Villages of Aaronsburg and Woodward and such other areas in the township as shall have at least 20 residential dwellings so situate in a group that the frontage of the lots upon which the dwellings are erected does not exceed 2,000 linear feet or 100 linear feet times the number of dwellings.

SHOPPING CENTER — A cohesive unit of stores or other commercial businesses arranged and constructed according to a plan and contained within a separate parcel of land.

SIGN — Any structure, device, light or natural object, including the ground itself, or any part thereof, or any device attached thereto or painted or represented thereon, which shall be used to identify, advertise or attract attention to any object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, firm, group, commodity, profession, enterprise, industry or business, or which shall display or include any letter, word, model, number, banner, flag, pennant, insignia, device or representation used as an announcement, direction or advertisement, and which is intended to be seen from off the premises or from a parking lot. The word sign shall include signs which are affixed to the inside of windows and glass doors and are intended to be seen from roadways or parking lots. No other indoor sign shall be deemed a sign within this chapter.

- (1) **GROUND-POLE SIGN** — A sign supported by one or more uprights, poles or braces placed in or upon the ground.
- (2) **ILLUMINATED SIGN** — A sign that provides artificial light directly, or through any transparent or translucent material, from a source of light connected with such sign; or a sign illuminated by a light focused upon or chiefly directed at the surface of the sign.
- (3) **OFF-PREMISES ADVERTISING SIGN** — A sign which contains a message unrelated to a business or profession conducted upon the premises where such sign is located or which is unrelated to a commodity, service or entertainment sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located.
- (4) **PERMANENT SIGN** — Any sign which is not a temporary sign.
- (5) **PROJECTING SIGN** — A sign which projects from and is supported by a wall of a building.
- (6) **ROOF SIGN** — Any sign erected and maintained upon or above the roof of any building.
- (7) **TEMPORARY SIGN** — A sign, constructed of cloth, canvas, fabric, wood or other similar material, with or without a structural frame, and intended for a limited period of display.

- (8) **WALL SIGN** — A sign which is attached directly to or painted upon a building wall and which does not extend more than 18 inches therefrom nor extend above the roofline.

SIGN AREA — Area of the smallest triangle, rectangle or circle which can wholly enclose the surface area of the sign. All visible faces of a multifaced sign shall be counted separately and then totaled in calculating sign area. Three dimensional signs shall be treated as dual-faced signs, such that the total area shall be twice the area of the smallest triangle, rectangle or circle which can totally circumscribe the sign in the plane of its largest dimension.

SIGN INSPECTOR — The Enforcement Officer of the township.¹

TOWNSHIP — Haines Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania.

- B. In this chapter, the singular shall include the plural; the plural shall include the singular; and the masculine shall include the feminine and neuter.

ARTICLE II General Regulations

§ 62-2. Signs permitted in all districts.

- A. Signs listed in this section are permitted in all zones and shall not require licenses or stickers, and they shall not be counted when calculating the number of signs on a premises, provided that such signs conform to the general regulations for signs enumerated in §§ 62-3 to 62-8 of this chapter.
- B. The following signs are permitted in all districts:
- (1) Name and address of resident, of not more than two square feet in sign area, but not to include any commercial advertising.
 - (2) “No trespassing” signs or other such signs regulating the use of a property, such as “no hunting,” “no fishing,” etc., of no more than two square feet in area in residential zones and five square feet in all commercial and industrial zones.
 - (3) Real estate signs, not exceeding five square feet in area in residential zones and 25 square feet in all commercial and industrial zones, which advertise the sale, rental or lease of the premises upon which said signs are located. Such real estate signs shall be removed within 10 days after the premises advertised has been sold, rented or leased.
 - (4) Bulletin boards for public, charitable or religious institutions, when located on the premises thereof and with a sign area of no more than 25 square feet if single-faced nor more than 50 feet if double-faced and if used exclusively for noncommercial announcements.
 - (5) Signs regulating on-premises traffic, parking or other functional subdivision, such as lavatory facilities, telephone, signs denoting other sections of a building, such as

¹ Editor’s Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

lubrication, office, etc., when less than five square feet in area and bearing no commercial advertising.

- (6) Signs erected by a governmental body or under the direction of such a body and bearing no commercial advertising, such as traffic signs, railroad crossing signs, safety signs, signs identifying public schools and playgrounds and the like.
- (7) Memorial signs or tablets and signs denoting the date of erection of buildings.
- (8) Flag, pennant or insignia of any government or of any religious, charitable or fraternal organization.
- (9) Temporary signs, no larger than five square feet in area, advertising the sale of edible farm products produced on the premises or advertising auctions and special events of charitable or public service groups.
- (10) Permanent residential development signs, not exceeding 25 square feet in area, at major entrances, designed to identify a residential subdivision and containing no commercial advertising.
- (11) Signs identifying places of worship, when located on the premises thereof.
- (12) Signs identifying a golf course or country club or other recreational facility, when located on the premises thereof and containing no commercial advertising.

§ 62-3. Signs prohibited in all districts.

The following signs shall not be permitted, erected or maintained in any district notwithstanding anything else contained in this chapter or elsewhere. Signs which are prohibited in subsections marked with an asterisk (*) shall be removed or brought into conformity with the provisions of this chapter within 90 days after the chapter is passed.

A. Illuminated signs or moving signs.

- (1) Signs which incorporate in any manner any flashing or moving illumination or illumination which varies in intensity or which varies in color; and signs which have any visible moving part, visible revolving parts or visible mechanical movement of any description or other apparent visible movement achieved by electrical pulsations or by actions of normal wind currents, except when not visible from motor vehicles traveling on public roadways. Hanging signs which simply swing in the wind, clocks, barber poles and time and temperature signs may be exempted, provided that they comply with all other provisions of this chapter.
- (2) Light sources which cast light on signs shall be shielded by opaque material so that the bulbs, floodlights or tubes are not visible off the property on which the signs are located.

***B. Any sign or sign structure which constitutes a hazard to public safety or health.**

***C. Signs which, by reason of size, location, content, coloring or manner of illumination, obstruct the vision of drivers, either when driving on a roadway or when entering a**

roadway from another roadway or driveway, or obstruct or detract from the visibility or effectiveness of any traffic sign or control device on public streets and roads.

- *D. Any sign which obstructs free ingress to or egress from a fire escape, door, window or other required exitway.
- *E. Signs which make use of words such as “stop,” “look,” “one-way,” “danger,” “yield” or any similar words, phrases, symbols, lights or characters in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- *F. Any obsolete sign which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted or a product sold. In any case, 90 days shall be allowed for removal of an obsolete sign.
- *G. Signs on public property or public rights-of-way, unless erected by a governmental body or unless required to be so located by order of a governmental body. No sign located on public property or a public right-of-way shall bear any commercial advertising or announcement.
- H. Signs painted on, attached to or supported by a tree, stone, cliff or other natural object, except signs permitted under § 62-2B(9).
- I. String lights, other than temporary holiday decorations, which are unshielded from off the property on which they are located.
- J. Searchlights, pennants, spinners, banners and streamers, except for occasions such as grand openings and then only with special permission of the Sign Inspector. Use shall be limited to a fifteen-day period.

§ 62-4. Number per premises limited.

Notwithstanding anything else in this chapter or elsewhere, no more than five signs may be erected or maintained on any premises at any one time; except that when a premises is located on a corner lot and has public entrances on two or more public ways, or where a building has both a front and rear public entrance, one additional sign may be erected. In calculating the total number of signs on a premises, both permanent and temporary signs shall be combined in the total.

§ 62-5. Height limited.

No sign or any part thereof, including braces, supports or lights, shall exceed a height of 25 feet. Height shall be measured from grade level directly below the face of the sign to the highest part of the sign.

§ 62-6. Sign area limited.

Notwithstanding anything else in this chapter or elsewhere, the total sign area per premises, including both permanent and temporary signs, shall not exceed two square feet per linear front foot of the main building on the premises, except that no premises shall be limited to less than 20 square feet of total sign area. In no case shall the total sign area of all signs on one premises

exceed 200 square feet, except that shopping centers in planned commercial districts may have one additional shopping center identification sign located along each street frontage used as an entrance. Such sign shall be subject to the requirements of § 62-11. Notwithstanding anything else in this chapter, the total sign area for a basement premises shall not exceed 20 square feet. This section is a limitation of and not an extension of any other provisions contained in this chapter.

§ 62-7. Content of largest sign on property limited.

The largest sign on a premises shall not advertise any particular article of merchandise unless it is the principal product sold or manufactured on the premises, except for off-premises signs which shall be regulated by § 62-13.

§ 62-8. Safety and maintenance.

- A. Every sign and all parts thereof, including framework, supports, background, anchors and wiring systems shall be constructed and maintained in compliance with the Building, Electrical and Fire Prevention Codes as enacted by the township. In the absence of an electrical ordinance, the National Electrical Code shall be used as the standard for all wiring systems.
- B. All signs and all parts thereof shall be kept in a good state of repair and maintenance.

**ARTICLE III
Specific Types of Signs**

§ 62-9. Projecting signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all projecting signs:

- A. No projecting sign shall project more than five feet beyond the building line in the direction of the street, nor shall any portion of any projecting sign be closer than two feet to the face of the street curb or curbline.
- B. No portion of any projecting sign shall be less than 10 feet above grade level.
- C. No single face of a projecting sign shall exceed 15 square feet in sign area.
- D. No projecting sign shall have a vertical dimension greater than six feet.
- E. There shall be no more than one projecting sign for any premises unless the premises is located on a corner lot or has public entrances on two or more public ways, in which case one projecting sign may be erected for and toward each public way.

§ 62-10. Wall signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all wall signs:

- A. No wall sign shall extend above the top of the wall upon which it is placed.
- B. No wall sign, or any part thereof, shall project more than 12 inches from the wall upon which it is mounted. If external lighting is used, reflectors must be 10 feet above the surface of the sidewalk, be equipped with wire mesh guards and must not extend more than two feet from the wall of the building.
- C. No wall sign shall extend beyond the left and right extremities of the wall to which it is attached.

§ 62-11. Ground-pole signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all ground-pole signs:

- A. Every ground-pole sign and all parts, braces and supports thereof shall be located entirely behind the property line and shall not project over public rights-of-way of other adjoining lands. However, ground-pole signs may be permitted between the property line and the building setback lines.
- B. No ground-pole sign shall be larger than 25 square feet in sign area on a single sign face, nor larger than 50 square feet of sign area for both faces combined, nor in excess of 10 feet in any dimension of the sign face.
- C. A premises may erect and maintain one projecting sign or one ground-pole sign, but not both. However, no individual business or other enterprise within a shopping center may erect or maintain a ground-pole sign.
- D. No more than one sign shall be mounted to the supporting structure of any ground-pole sign, except for a directional sign permitted in § 62-14.
- E. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, for any property located on a corner lot or having public entrance to two or more public ways, one ground-pole sign may be erected for and toward each public way.

§ 62-12. Roof signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all roof signs:

- A. When viewed from a distance of 50 feet directly in front of the sign surface and at a point five feet above ground level, a roof sign shall exhibit a background which contains nothing other than a portion of the building which supports the sign.
- B. No more than one roof sign may be erected or maintained on a single premises.

§ 62-13. Advertising signs; roadside turnoffs and pedestrian display areas.

- A. In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all off-premises advertising signs, except directional signs:

- (1) Off-premises advertising signs shall be located in space provided at roadside turnoffs or in pedestrian display areas. It is the intent of this provision to permit off-premises advertising for the township in roadside turnoffs or pedestrian display areas.
- (2) A maximum sign area of 10 square feet at each roadside turnoff and five square feet in pedestrian display areas shall be allowed each commercial enterprise, institution or organization using these areas.

B. Roadside turnoffs and pedestrian display areas.

- (1) To provide maximum direction and information to the traveling public, roadside turnoffs may be located in nonresidential areas. Pedestrian display areas may also be located in nonresidential areas.
- (2) Vehicular access shall be designed in accordance with adopted standards of the municipal subdivision regulations and shall be subject to sign distance standards adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. All areas devoted to vehicular usage shall be paved or covered with dust-free material. Restroom facilities, water supply and sewage disposal, if provided, shall be subject to municipal and state requirements; storm drainage shall be approved by the Township Engineer; and lighting shall be provided for vehicular and pedestrian areas in accordance with township regulations. Outdoor advertising malls shall be located so as to be seen from parked vehicles or by pedestrians and shall not be designed to convey messages from off the site. No structures or parts thereof shall exceed 25 feet in height. All structures and parking facilities shall be located at least 30 feet behind the front property line of the site.
- (3) Roadside turnoffs shall permit either an outdoor advertising mall or enclosed information center, or both. The site may also include picnic tables, rest rooms, playground equipment, cooking grills or other noncommercial activities or utilities. Individual advertisers may have direct telephone lines at their places of business.
- (4) Site approval.
 - (a) Anyone wishing to construct a roadside turnoff shall apply in writing to the Sign Inspector for location approval. The Sign Inspector shall, within seven days, forward the request to the Board for recommendations prior to acting upon the request. The Board shall make its report within 30 days after formally receiving the request from the Sign Inspector.
 - (b) The application shall be accompanied by a preliminary plan of the site showing topographic and other physical features, boundary dimensions and property size.
 - (c) Submission of final site plans. Final site plans shall be submitted to the Board for its approval.
 - (d) Final site plan requirements. The final site plan shall indicate final grading, parking and driveways, ingress and egress, landscaping, detailed plans of all improvements and, if provided, methods of waste disposal and water supply.
- (5) Pedestrian display structures shall be subject to review procedures as stated above.

§ 62-14. Directional signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all directional signs:

- A. Signs may be erected along major roadways to direct vehicles or pedestrians to premises in locations far removed from or not easily seen from major roadways. Such signs shall be reviewed by the Board prior to the issuance of a sign permit by the Sign Inspector.
- B. Directional signs shall be ground-pole signs with a maximum area of 10 square feet on a single-face or 20 square feet on a double-faced sign.
- C. The content of directional signs shall be limited to the name of the establishment and direction and distance information.
- D. Directional signs shall not be located more than 500 feet from an entrance or other roadway leading to the advertiser and shall be located either on the same side of the major highway and in advance of such entrance or along the side of the highway closest to those travelers who are to see the advertisement.
- E. No more than two individual signs shall be erected within the permitted area, and these shall all be attached to a single ground support structure. When more than two directional signs are requested at a single location, all information shall be combined in one sign, which shall not exceed an area of 25 square feet for a single-faced sign, nor 50 feet for a double-faced sign.
- F. The Board shall review any applications for directional signs prior to the issuance of a sign permit by the Sign Inspector.
- G. The longest dimension of a directional sign shall not exceed two times its shortest dimension and shall exhibit a light background with contrasting dark border.

§ 62-15. Real estate development signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to all real estate development signs:

- A. The use of real estate development signs shall be limited to those developers or owners having for sale a minimum of six lots in one subdivision.
- B. Such signs must be located on the premises which are for sale.
- C. Such signs may advertise only the subdivision in which the sign is located and not the sale of lots elsewhere or the realtor's, developer's or landowner's business in general. The content of such signs shall be limited to the name of the development, the developer's name and the telephone number of the developer or his sales agents.
- D. Such signs shall conform to relevant setback line requirements. If any person shall use more than one sign for the same development or area, no two signs shall be closer to each other than 1,000 feet measured in a straight line between said signs.

- E. The maximum sign area of any such single-faced sign shall be 25 square feet and for any such double-faced sign, 50 feet. No part of such sign shall be more than 10 feet above grade or in excess of 10 feet in any dimension.
- F. Such signs shall be removed when 75% of the lots in the subdivision have been sold or leased.
- G. Artificial illumination of such signs is prohibited.

§ 62-16. Professional occupation signs.

Denoting only the name, office hours, symbol and/or profession of an occupant not exceeding one sign per occupant and not exceeding five square feet per occupant, the total area for all such signs shall not exceed 25 square feet per building.

§ 62-17. Shopping center signs.

In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the following regulations shall apply to shopping centers:

- A. Only ground-pole signs which bear the name of the shopping center may be erected on the lands occupied by the center, subject to the provisions of § 62-11.
- B. All other signs identifying each individual business shall be erected in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

§ 62-18. Signs in residential areas.

- A. All signs are prohibited in residential areas except those enumerated as follows:
 - (1) Those signs enumerated in §§ 62-2 and 62-16 of this chapter.
 - (2) Wall signs denoting the name of an apartment building, fraternity or sorority house, boarding or rooming house, tourist home, nonprofit club, community or municipal center, funeral home or any other similar enterprises as are now allowed or may hereafter be allowed in these areas.
- B. Illuminated signs are prohibited in residential areas, except for street address signs, signs indicating doctors of medicine, signs indicating churches or other places of worship and signs necessary for public safety.
- C. Regardless of anything else in this chapter, no sign which exceeds 25 square feet of area on a single face or 50 square feet of area on a double-faced sign may be erected or maintained in a residential area.

ARTICLE IV
Variances; Licenses

§ 62-19. Hearings on variances.

In the event that any person wishes to construct or install a sign or signs other than as permitted in this chapter, that person shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board.

§ 62-20. Granting of variances.

Variances to this chapter shall be granted by the Board in accordance with the provisions of §§ 62-19 and 62-21.

§ 62-21. Appeals.

The Board shall have the power to hear and rule on appeals from the decision of the Sign Inspector. Such appeals must be filed with the Board within 30 days of the decision of the Sign Inspector.

§ 62-22. Sign Inspector.

A. Appointment. A Sign Inspector shall be appointed to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

B. Duties of the Sign Inspector.

- (1) The Sign Inspector shall examine all applications for permits for erection of signs, issue licenses for new signs and for continued use of signs which conform to the requirements of this chapter, record and file all applications for permits with any accompanying plans and documents, make an annual inspection of all signs and make required reports.
- (2) If the Sign Inspector shall find that any sign has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this chapter, he shall promptly notify the owner or lessor thereof, in writing. If the owner or lessor fails to remove or alter the sign so as to comply with the provisions of this chapter within 30 days, the Sign Inspector shall cause such sign to be removed or altered in such a way as to conform to the provisions of this chapter. The costs of such removal or alteration shall be borne by the owner or lessor of such sign and shall be a lien upon the premises.
- (3) The Sign Inspector shall cause any sign which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed immediately. The cost of such removal shall be born by the owner or lessor of such sign and if removed by the township shall be a lien upon the premises.

§ 62-23. Licenses and stickers for permanent signs.

A. General provisions for all permanent signs.

- (1) All permanent signs, except those enumerated in § 62-2, must be licensed.
 - (2) Application for a license for a permanent sign shall be made on a form provided by the Sign Inspector. Licenses for permanent signs must be kept on the premises where the sign is displayed and must be shown to the Sign Inspector upon request.
 - (3) Licenses for permanent signs are valid for three years. If such sign is found to be in violation of this chapter at the time of license renewal, it shall be subject to a new license fee.
- B. Permits to build new permanent signs or to alter or move existing permanent signs.
- (1) No permanent sign shall hereafter be erected, structurally altered or moved until the person proposing to erect, alter or move such sign shall have obtained a permit therefor from the Sign Inspector. Such permit shall be issued only when the Sign Inspector is satisfied that such sign will, in every respect, comply with all of the applicable provisions of this chapter. Such permit shall be valid for 130 days. The fee for granting such a permit shall be set by the Board.²
 - (2) Any person desiring such a payment shall file application therefor upon a form which shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:
 - (a) The name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
 - (b) A map, drawn to scale, showing the location of the building structure or lot to which the sign is to be attached or erected and showing the position of the sign in relation to nearby buildings and thoroughfares.
 - (c) A plan, drawn to scale, showing the design of the sign, materials used and method of construction and means of attachment to the building or the ground.
 - (d) The name of the person, firm, corporation or association erecting, altering or moving said sign.
 - (e) Written consent of the owner of the land on which the sign is to be erected, altered or relocated.
 - (f) Any electrical or building permit required and issued for said sign under municipal ordinances.
 - (g) Any other information the Sign Inspector shall require in order to show full compliance with this chapter and all other applicable laws and ordinances.
 - (3) After permission to erect, alter or move a permanent sign has been obtained and said sign has been constructed, painted and placed as specified in the permit application, the owner of the sign shall notify the Sign Inspector who shall inspect the sign. If the sign is as specified in the permit application and does not violate any provision of this chapter or other applicable ordinances, a license shall be issued to the owner, valid for the current year.

² Editor's Note: The Fees Resolution is on file in the township offices and may be examined there during regular office hours.

- C. Licenses for existing permanent signs. All owners of permanent signs in existence at the time of passage of this chapter shall make application for a sign license within 90 days of the passage of this chapter. After application to license an existing permanent sign has been received, the Sign Inspector shall inspect the sign. If the sign is safe and in good repair and does not violate the provisions of this chapter for such existing signs, a license shall be issued to the licensee, valid for the current year; subject, however, to the following provisions:
- (1) Conforming signs. All permanent signs which are in existence at the time of passage of this chapter and which conform to the provisions of the chapter shall be eligible for a sign license.
 - (2) Nonconforming signs. All permanent signs which are in existence at the time of passage of this chapter, but which do not conform to one or more applicable provisions of this chapter, shall be eligible for a sign license, excepting those signs denoted with an asterisk (*) in § 62-3. Eligible nonconforming signs may be relicensed for two three-year periods or a total of nine years. At the end of that time the nonconforming sign must be removed.

§ 62-24. Licenses for temporary signs.

- A. All temporary signs as they are defined in this chapter, except those signs enumerated in § 62-2, must be licensed. Possession of a valid license for a temporary sign shall entitle the licensee to display one temporary sign at any given time.
- B. Application for a license for a temporary sign shall be made on a form provided by the Sign Inspector. Licenses for temporary signs must be kept on the premises where signs are displayed and must be shown to the Sign Inspector upon request.
- C. Size, content and location of a temporary sign may be varied at any time so long as the variations remain within the overall restrictions of this chapter.
- D. Licenses for temporary signs are valid for one year and shall be renewed annually.
- E. No temporary sign need be licensed until one year after the passage of this chapter. Thereafter, nonconforming temporary signs shall not be permitted, and the Sign Inspector may cause any such nonconforming temporary sign to be removed without notice.

§ 62-25. License fee.

Every applicant, before being granted a license hereunder, shall pay a fee set by the Board by resolution.³

³ Editor's Note: The Fees Resolution is on file in the township offices and may be examined there during regular office hours.

§ 62-26. Violations and penalties.⁴

This chapter shall be enforced by action brought before a District Justice in the same manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure. Any person who violates or permits the violation of this chapter shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding, be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days. Each day or portion thereof that such violation continues, or is permitted to continue, shall constitute a separate offense. Each section of this chapter that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense.

⁴ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).