

Frequently Asked Questions

All code sections could be found at:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/oda/download/ODA Act & Regulations.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/oda/download/ODA_Act_&_Regulations.pdf)

1. How do I obtain a permit?

All companies or individuals applying for a permit must first acquire an outdoor advertising license. The license application could be found in our website:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/oda/docs/License_Application.pdf

Permits can be obtained by submitting a complete permit application. The permit application could also be found in our website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/oda/docs/ODA0002-FMU-Approved.pdf>

2. Do I need to renew my permit each year?

Companies or individuals with 6 permits or less must pay within a fixed five-year cycle that currently ends in 2018.

Companies or individuals with 7 permits or more have the option to renew their permits on an annual basis. Please refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 2422.1.

3. I have an approved preliminary request. What if I am unable to acquire a building permit from the proper local authority?

The Office of Outdoor Advertising (ODA) will accept either a building permit or an action of a local agency when applying for a permit. If neither can be provided, ODA must deny the application. Please refer to section 2422(4).

4. I'm running for an election and would like to put up some political signs. What are the requirements?

The Statement of Responsibility for Political Signs form must be completed and submitted to the PO Box provided in the form. Here is a link to the form:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/oda/docs/Political2.pdf>

5. I have a permit for a wooden display. I would like to replace the wood with metal in order to improve the quality of my display. Can I make this change?

A new permit application must be filed as this "upgrade" is considered beyond customary maintenance. Please refer to Section 2270 for the definition of customary maintenance.

6. I have a permit for a display. How do I find out whether I need a license or not?

If you're in the business of outdoor advertising, you are required to obtain an outdoor advertising license. Please refer to Business and Professions Code, Section 5300.

7. I want to advertise my business on the blue ("Food / Gas / Lodging") signs along the highway - who can I contact to find out more information?

Caltrans' Tourist Oriented Directional Sign and Logos Program can assist you in this.

TODS Coordinators:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/tods/contact.html>

Business Logo Coordinators:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/logo/contact.html>

8. Are permits public record? How do I get a copy of a permit?

Most documents maintained by the Outdoor Advertising Program are available to the public upon request. The process to request documents is outlined here:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/paffairs/cpra/>

9. I have sold my sign. How do I transfer the permit?

The permittee of record must sign and submit the following Permit Transfer Form:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/oda/docs/Permit_Transfer_Form.pdf

10. If I have a complaint about what is being advertised on a display, who do I contact?

Contact the owner or operator of the display. The advertising company should be listed on the billboard on the bottom edge.

This information is not intended to be legal advice and is information only. Please refer to the Outdoor Advertising Act for specific statute and regulatory information.

Update 11/08/2017 by Kenneth Parmelee