

# RoadSoft

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Do you have a question?  
Call Technical Support at (906) 487-2102

# RoundUp

The CTT's Sign Retroreflectivity Informational Video is well done and will be very useful for agencies considering how to meet retroreflectivity requirements.

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## Sign Retroreflectivity FAQs

RoadSoft can help agencies comply with the new federal retroreflectivity requirements. In this issue of the RoundUp we will answer three frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding sign retroreflectivity:

**Q: My agency hasn't decided on a management program for maintaining minimum sign retroreflectivity. How should we determine what approach is best?**

**A:** Selecting one single method, or a combination of two or more methods from those described by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for maintaining minimum retroreflectivity can be difficult—especially since some of these methods have prerequisites that must be met before implementation. For example, you may need to obtain special equipment, like a retroreflectometer, comparison panels or calibration signs, or you may need to build a sign inventory. Even though there is no single best way to determine which method(s) you will use, one approach is to assess how you have managed signs in the past. For example, if regularly scheduled replacement of signs has been your past management practice, then most likely many of your signs will already meet minimum requirements. In this instance, using a method such as Blanket Replacement may not be the most cost-effective approach. To compare the costs associated with the use of each method, visit [www.ctt.mtu.edu/ToolRegistration.html](http://www.ctt.mtu.edu/ToolRegistration.html) for access to the Sign Retroreflectivity Management Selection Tool. This tool, created by the Center for Technology & Training uses information specific to your jurisdiction (like centerline road miles) to help calculate initial and annual costs for implementing each method.

**Q: How can my agency use RoadSoft to help manage sign retroreflectivity?**

**A:** Each of the methods described by the FHWA for maintaining minimum retroreflectivity can be managed using RoadSoft. For example, if you're using the Visual Inspection method, you can quickly and easily collect sign inspection information in the field using RoadSoft's Laptop Data Collector (LDC). If you're performing blanket replacements,

you can define your blanket groups within RoadSoft by selecting specific criteria or by making selections on the map. RoadSoft's numerous sign data inventory fields, including installation dates, sheeting material types, and replacement dates can help you keep track of your sign features and allow you to easily generate work orders and inspections based on your signs' expected life. You can also generate default and custom sign retroreflectivity reports that can help you determine your sign sheeting material needs so you can budget for sign replacements. To learn how to manage a specific method, watch step-by-step tutorial videos at [www.roadsoft.org/training/tutorialvideos](http://www.roadsoft.org/training/tutorialvideos).

**Q: I heard Engineer Grade sheeting material should no longer be used on new signs, is this true?**

**A:** According to Table 2A-3 of the MUTCD, Engineer Grade (ASTM Type I) retroreflective sheeting shall NOT be used on the following signs:

- All warning signs
- White legend on overhead green guide signs
- White legend on ground mounted green guide signs

Although Engineer Grade sheeting material is acceptable for use on some signs, even brand new Engineer Grade sheeting may only be slightly above minimum requirements. This means, due to inevitable retroreflectivity degradation, signs using this sheeting will fall below minimum requirements sooner than those made with higher-performing materials; therefore, it may be more cost-effective in the long run for your organization to pay a higher initial cost for sheeting materials that not only perform better, but that have a longer expected service life. Keep in mind that Super Engineer Grade (ASTM Type II) and High Intensity (ASTM Type III) sheeting materials shall NOT be used on the following:

- White legend on overhead green guide signs

Unlike some of the glass-beaded sheeting materials, all prismatic sheeting materials currently available can be used on all signs. For more detailed information, visit <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/retro> or refer to Table 2A-3 of the MUTCD.

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## Need to Learn About Sign Retro?

Whether you're well on your way to meeting minimum sign retroreflectivity requirements, or are just getting started, watching the Sign Retroreflectivity Informational Presentation video may help you and/or members of your organization better understand sign retroreflectivity and the requirements.



To watch the video, visit:

[www.ctt.mtu.edu/SignRetroPresentations.html](http://www.ctt.mtu.edu/SignRetroPresentations.html)

Or, for links to the video and other valuable retroreflectivity resources, visit:

[www.roadsoft.org/asset-management/sign-retroreflectivity](http://www.roadsoft.org/asset-management/sign-retroreflectivity)

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