

CHAPTER 7
CALIFORNIA TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES COMMITTEE
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CHAPTER 7

CALIFORNIA TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES COMMITTEE

1. GENERAL.

a. The California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) is an outgrowth of the 1933 California State Sign Committee. Membership in the original Committee consisted of the State Maintenance Engineer, Chief Engineer for the California State Automobile Association (CSAA), and the Field Engineer for the Automobile Club of Southern California (ACSC). The automobile clubs performed all signing functions on state highways until 1947.

b. After 1948, Committee membership was expanded to include representation from the CHP, the Institute of Traffic and Transportation Engineering of the University of California, the League of California Cities (LCC), and the County Supervisors Association of California (CSAC).

c. In April 1968, the Committee was reorganized, adopted by-laws, and is currently represented by six parent organizations. These organizations are the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), CHP, LCC, CSAC, ACSC, and the CSAA. The scope of the Committee was broadened, and the new name "California Traffic Control Devices Committee" was adopted.

d. Three Committee member seats (and their alternates) were designated by Caltrans to represent road users and active transportation road users. The most current Committee members and their affiliations can be found on the CTCDC brochure.¹

e. Technical consultants may be invited to participate in the activities of the CTCDC as needed. Legal services shall be provided by Caltrans.

f. In 1969, the California Legislature enacted legislation which deleted provisions from the California Vehicle Code (CVC) that specified standards for traffic control devices. Sections 21400 and 21401 CVC were then enacted to encompass all traffic control device requirements. As a result, the responsibilities of the CTCDC were expanded to establish standards and consult directly with local agencies.

¹ <http://www.dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/ctcdc>

2. PURPOSE.

a. The CTCDC is officially recognized as the advisory body to the Director of Caltrans in the area of traffic control devices. In this role, the Committee serves as a forum for consultation with local agencies and public hearings required of Caltrans by Section 21400 CVC.

b. The CTCDC and Caltrans work together in keeping the California Manual on Uniformed Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) updated. This manual provides the basic standards and specifications prescribed in Sections 21400 and 21401 CVC. It is a working document which is consistently under review to incorporate the developing science and technology of traffic engineering. It is the shared opinion of Caltrans and the CTCDC that input to the manual is solicited from all agencies and organizations which are affected by its provisions.

c. It should be recognized that not all devices specified in the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) have been adopted for use on California's streets and highways. Where there is a difference between the CA MUTCD and the MUTCD, the CA MUTCD has precedence.

3. POLICY.

a. The lieutenant assigned to the Special Projects Section (SPS) represents the CHP as an active voting member of the CTCDC.

b. Items for consideration before the Committee must be placed on the agenda by a member of the Committee. Therefore, commanders who wish to have a sign and/or experimentation request considered by the CTCDC shall make their requests by memorandum through channels to SPS. Requesting commanders are encouraged to consult with their Caltrans District office for guidance prior to submission of their requests.

(1) All sign requests are required to include:

(a) An explanation of the proposed use and desired effect.

(b) An image or illustration of the proposed sign.

(2) All requests for experimentation are required to include:

(a) A statement indicating the nature of the problem.

(b) A description of the proposed change, how it was developed, the manner in which it deviates from the standard, and how it is expected to be an improvement over existing standards.

(c) Any illustration, photograph, or video which would help explain the experimental device or its use.

(d) Any supporting data as to how the experimental device was developed, if it has been implemented in other jurisdictions, in what ways it has been found to be adequate or inadequate, and how the choice of device or application was decided.

(e) All requests shall include chain of command approval prior to submitting to SPS.

c. The SPS CTCDC designee will sponsor and introduce the departmental approved item to the Committee and provide feedback to the requesting commander.

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