

7.0301 Statement of Need and Purpose.

Good outdoor lighting at night benefits everyone. It increases safety, enhances the Parish's night time character, and helps provide security. New lighting technologies have produced lights that are extremely powerful, and these types of lights may be improperly installed so that they create problems of excessive glare, light trespass, and higher energy use. Excessive glare can be annoying and may cause safety problems. Light trespass reduces everyone's privacy, and higher energy use results in increased costs for everyone. Appropriately regulated, and properly installed, outdoor lighting will contribute to the safety and welfare of the residents of the Parish. This Section is intended to eliminate problems of glare, minimize light trespass, and help reduce the energy and financial costs of outdoor lighting, by establishing regulations which limit the area that certain kinds of outdoor-lighting fixtures can illuminate, and by limiting the total allowable illumination of property located in St. Tammany Parish. Luminaires on all properties, in all zoning districts, shall be installed to keep unnecessary direct light from shining onto abutting properties or streets.

7.0302 Applicability, Permits, Variances, Waivers, Appeals.

- A. Applicability. All public and private outdoor lighting installed in the Parish of St. Tammany shall be in conformance with the requirements set forth in this Section 7.03.
- B. Permit Requirements.
 1. Submission Contents. Application for outdoor lighting permits shall be made to the Department of Planning. The applicant for any electrical permit required by any provision of the laws of this jurisdiction in connection with proposed work, other than single-family residential, involving outdoor lighting fixtures shall submit (as part of the application for permit) evidence that the proposed work will comply with this Section. The submission shall contain but shall not necessarily be limited to the following, all or part of which may be part or in addition to the information required elsewhere in the laws of this jurisdiction upon application for the required permit:
 - a. plans indicating the location on the premises, and the type of illuminating devices, fixtures, lamps, supports, reflectors, and other devices;
 - b. description of the illuminating devices, fixtures, lamps, supports, reflectors, and other devices and the description may include, but is not limited to, catalog cuts by manufacturers and drawings (including sections where required);
 - c. photometric data, such as that furnished by manufacturers, or similar showing the angle of cut off or light emissions.

2. Additional Submission. Should additional data be required by the Planning Department for issuance of a permit, it shall be incumbent upon the applicant to provide such material.
 3. Lamp or Fixture Substitution. Should any outdoor light fixture, or the type of light source therein, be changed after the permit has been issued, a change request must be submitted to the building official for his approval, together with adequate information to assure compliance with this Section 7.03, which must be received prior to substitution.
- C. Variances by Board of Zoning Adjustments. If the application for a lighting permit shows that all requirements of this Section 7.03 are complied with, the Director of Planning shall issue a permit without the necessity of any public hearing before the Zoning Commission or any other public body. If the application for the permit is denied, the applicant may, subject to the provisions of Section 7.0302 D, seek a variance from the Board of Zoning Adjustments pursuant to the provisions of Section 3.01. Appeals from the Board of Adjustments shall be made to the District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany as provided in Section 3.01.
- D. Criteria for Variances and Waivers. Pursuant to Section 7.0302 C, The Board of Zoning Adjustments may grant variances from the lighting regulations of this Section 7.03. Such variances and waivers may be granted to diminish lighting regulation requirements when one or more of the following exists: unusual design of building or structures, unusual effect of the lighting requirements on the structures to be placed on the lot, extraordinarily burdensome result if lighting regulations are not modified, and any other problem or matter that affects the development of the property or the buildings and structures thereon which the Board of Zoning Adjustments determines to be in the public interest to consider; provided that variances and waivers shall not be based solely on cost or economic consideration. Furthermore, the Board of Zoning Adjustments may grant variances from the provisions of this Section 7.03 due to any hardships or other matters that are a proper basis for a variance.

7.0303 Luminaire Design Requirements.

- A. Applicability to Uses Other Than Single Family Residential. The provisions of this Section 7.0303 shall apply to all uses except single family residential. Single family residential shall be governed by the provisions of Section 7.0305.
- B. Luminaire Design. Any luminaire with a lamp or lamps rated at an average of more than 3000 lumens shall be either:
 1. Full Cutoff Type Fixture with a single plane lens, or
 2. Fully-Shielded Fixture
- C. Luminaire Height.
 1. Any luminaire with a lamp or lamps rated at an average of less than 3000 lumens may be mounted at any height.

2. Any luminaire with a lamp or lamps rated an average of more than 3000 lumens may be mounted up to a height of 35 feet in accordance with the following:

FULL CUTOFFS WITH HEIGHT FIXTURE	SINGLE-PLANE LENS	FULLY SHIELD
0-25 feet	Acceptable	Shield EVEN with LDLEP
>25-30 feet	Acceptable	Shield 1 INCH below LDLEP
>30-35 feet LDLEP	Acceptable	Shield 2 INCHES below

- D. Luminaire Footcandles. Total foot-candles measured from three feet above ground level with the measuring instrument held in the horizontal plane shall be in accordance with the following standards:

	Maximum
Entrances	
Foot-candle	
Active (pedestrian and/or conveyance)	5
Inactive (normally locked, infrequently used)	1
Building Exteriors	
Vital locations or structures	5
Building surrounds	1
Floodlit Buildings and Monuments	10
Loading and Unloading Platforms	20
Automated Teller Machines	20
Service Stations	
Approach	1.5
Driveway	1.5
Pump Island	20
Service Areas	3
Storage Yards	
Active	20
Inactive	1
Retail Outdoor Lighting	10

7.0304 Lamps That Emit 3000 Lumens.

The following rated lamp wattages shall be deemed to emit 3000 lumens unless the Planning Department determines, based upon information provided by a lamp manufacturer, that the rated wattage of a lamp emits either more or less than 3000 lumens:

- (1) Incandescent lamp: one hundred sixty (160) or more watts.

- (2) Quartz halogen lamp: one hundred sixty (160) or more watts.
- (3) Florescent lamp: thirty-five (35) or more watts.
- (4) Mercury vapor lamp: seventy-five (75) or more watts.
- (5) Metal halide lamp: forty (40) or more watts.
- (6) High pressure sodium lamp: forty-five (45) or more watts.
- (7) Low pressure sodium lamp: twenty-five (25) or more watts.

7.0305 Single Family Residential Applications

- A. Less Than 3000 Lumens. Exterior lighting less than 3000 lumens including spotlights and floodlights shall be set such that the centerline of the beam (or lamp) does not exceed 35 degrees from vertical.
- B. Greater Than 3000 Lumens. All luminaires greater than 3000 lumens shall conform to the provisions of this Section 7.0303 B and 7.0303 C.

7.0306 Exceptions to Luminaire Design Requirements.

- A. Luminaire Redirection. Any luminaire with a lamp or lamps rated at 3000 lumens or less may be used without restriction to light distribution or mounting height, except that no spot or flood luminaire rated 3000 lumens or less may be aimed, directed, or focused such as to cause direct light from the luminaire to be directed toward residential buildings on adjacent or nearby land, or to create glare perceptible to persons operating motor vehicles on public ways.
- B. Police or Fire Departments or other Emergency Services. All temporary emergency lighting need by the Police or Fire Departments or other emergency services, as well as all vehicular luminaires, shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section 7.03.
- C. Federal Regulatory Agencies. All hazard warning luminaires required by Federal regulatory agencies are exempt from the requirements of this Section 7.03, except that all luminaires used must be red and must be shown to be as close as possible to the Federally required minimum lumen output requirement for the specific task.
- D. Flags. Up-Lighting for national, state or foreign nation flags located on poles independent of other structures are exempt from the requirements of this Section 7.03.
- E. Trees. Up-Lighting or down-lighting of trees is exempt from the requirements of this Section 7.03 except that the maximum amount of lumens for such lighting shall be 3000 lumens per fixture.
- F. Sensor Security Lighting. Security lighting controlled by sensors which provides illumination for five (5) minutes or less is exempt from the requirements of this Section 7.03.
- G. Street Lighting. Both public and private street lights are exempt from the requirements of this Section 7.03 if they were in existence at the time this Section

7.03 becomes effective or if a permit or other approval has been granted for these lights at the time this Section 7.03 becomes effective.

- H. Church Steeples. Up-lighting of church steeples is permitted as long as said lighting is fully shielded.

7.0307 Outdoor Advertising Signs.

- A. Top Mounted Fixtures. Top Mounted Fixtures Required. Lighting fixtures used to illuminate an outdoor advertising sign shall be mounted on the top of the sign structure. All such fixtures shall comply with the shielding requirements of Section 7.03 with the exception of the portion of the luminaire parallel with the sign, provided this portion does not allow any light dispersion or direct glare to shine above a 90 degree horizontal plane.
- B. Translucent Outdoor Advertising Signs. Outdoor advertising signs of the type constructed of translucent materials and wholly illuminated from within do not require shielding. Dark backgrounds with light lettering or symbols are required.
- C. Prohibitions. Electrical illumination of outdoor advertising off-site signs, other than those located adjacent to Interstate Highways, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and sunrise is prohibited.
- D. Compliance Limit. The lighting for existing outdoor advertising structures shall be brought into conformance with this section no later than January 1, 2006.

7.0308 Recreational Facilities (Public and Private). Recreational field lighting, public or private, such as, football fields, soccer fields, baseball fields, and softball fields, shall be exempt from the height requirement of 35' and total lumen output provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A. Parking Lots And Areas Surrounding Facility. Lighting for parking lots and other areas surrounding the playing field, court, or track shall comply with the lighting requirements as defined in Section 7.03.
- B. Shielding. All fixtures used for event lighting shall be fully shielded or be designed or provided with sharp cut-off capability, so as to minimize up-light, spill-light, and glare.
- C. Time of Holding Events. All events shall be scheduled so as to commence before 9:00 p.m., but under no circumstances shall any illumination of the playing field, court, or track be permitted after 11:00 p.m.

7.0309 Prohibitions.

- A. Laser Source Light. The use of laser source light or any similar high intensity light for outdoor advertising or entertainment is prohibited.
- B. Searchlights. The operation of searchlights is prohibited except for grand openings and special events for a period not to exceed 2 (two) days and no more

than twice per calendar year. Such use shall not be located within 500 (five hundred) feet of a residential area and shall not be allowed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and sunrise.

- C. **Outdoor Advertising Off-Site Signs.** Electrical illumination of outdoor advertising off-site signs, other than those located adjacent to Interstate Highways, is prohibited between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and sunrise.
- D. **Commercial Landscape Lighting.** Commercial landscape lighting may not be directed above the horizontal plane.
- E. **Neon Lighting.** Neon lighting is prohibited except as provided for regarding signs in Section 7.02.
- F. **Strings Of Lights (Non-Residential Uses).** Strings of lights are prohibited except from Thanksgiving Day until January 10. Strings of lights shall include, but not be limited to, lights strung around trees and lights that simulate icicles.

7.0310 Temporary Outdoor Lighting.

Any temporary outdoor lighting that conforms to the requirements of this Section shall be allowed. Nonconforming temporary outdoor lighting may be permitted by an Administrative Permit granted by the Planning Department after considering: (1) the public and/or private benefits that will result from the temporary lighting; (2) any annoyance or safety problems that may result from the use of the temporary lighting; and (3) the duration of the temporary nonconforming lighting. The applicant shall submit a detailed description of the proposed temporary nonconforming lighting to the Planning Department.

7.0311 Regulation of Non-Conforming Luminaires.

- A. **Definition of Legally Non-Conforming Luminaires.** The term “legally non-conforming luminaires” shall mean (i) any luminaire located within the Parish which does not conform with the provisions of this Section 7.03 at the time this Section 7.03 becomes effective, or (ii) any luminaire not yet constructed, but which has been granted a permit through the granting of a building permit or other approval, at the time this Section 7.03 becomes effective.
- B. **Continued Existence of Legally Non-Conforming Luminaires.** Legally non-conforming luminaires may continue in existence or may be constructed as provided for in Section 7.0311 A (ii), but such luminaires shall lose their legally non-conforming status and shall be amortized and removed or brought into compliance as set forth in Section 7.0311 C and D.
- C. **Amortization of Non-Conforming Luminaires.** The rules with respect to amortization of legally non-conforming luminaires are as follows:
 - 1. **Pole mounted legally non-conforming luminaires for single family residences** must be brought into compliance when the fixture is changed or repaired or by January 1, 2020, whichever occurs sooner.

2. Pole mounted legally non-conforming luminaires for agricultural uses must be brought into compliance when the fixture is changed or repaired or by January 1, 2020, whichever occurs sooner.
 3. Except as provided in Section 7.0311 C 1 and 2 and D, any other legal non-conforming luminaires shall be brought into compliance as follows:
 - (a) Any non-conforming luminaire which has a height of less than 35 (thirty-five) feet shall be brought into compliance by January 1, 2006, which is hereby established as the amortization period for such non-conforming luminaires.
 - (b) Any non-conforming luminaire which has a height of 35 (thirty-five) feet or over shall be fully shielded 3" below LDLEP by January 1, 2006 which is hereby established as the amortization period for such non-conforming luminaires.
- D. Non-Conforming Luminaires Causing Disability Glare. Non Conforming luminaires that direct light toward streets or parking lots that cause disability glare to motorists or cyclists should be either shielded or re-directed within 90 days of notification by the Parish, so that the luminaires do not cause a potential hazard to motorists or cyclists.

7.0312 Definitions for Outdoor Lighting Regulations.

The following definitions relate to the outdoor lighting regulations contained in Section 7.03. These definitions are intended to also be set forth in Section 10 simultaneously with the adoption of Section 7.03 or at a later date.

Direct Light: Light emitted directly from the lamp, off of the reflector or reflector diffuser, or through the refractor or diffuser lens, of a luminaire.

Disability Glare: Glare resulting in reduced visual performance and visibility. It is often accompanied by discomfort.

Fixture: The assembly that houses the lamp or lamps and can include all or some of the following parts: a housing, a mounting bracket or pole socket, a lamp holder, a ballast, a reflector or mirror, and/or a refractor or lens.

Flood or Spot light: Any light fixture or lamp that incorporates a reflector or a refractor to concentrate the light output into a directed beam in a particular direction.

Foot-candle: A unit of measure for illuminance. A unit of illuminance on a surface that is everywhere one foot from a uniform point source of light of one candle and equal to one lumen per square foot.

Full Cut-Off Type Fixture: A luminaire or light fixture that, by design of the housing, does not allow any light dispersion or direct glare to shine above a 90 degree, horizontal plane from the base of the fixture and that is installed in a vertical position to prevent disability glare.

Fully Shielded Fixture: A luminaire or fixture constructed in such a manner that an opaque shield extends, on the top and all sides, below the lowest direct-light-emitting part (LDLEP) of the luminaire. The lowest edge of such a shield shall surround the LDLEP and be level with the horizontal plane, regardless of the orientation of the luminaire or fixture.

Glare: Light emitting from a luminaire with an intensity great enough to reduce a viewer's ability to see, and in extreme cases causing momentary blindness.

Height of Luminaire: The height of a luminaire shall be the vertical distance from the normal finished grade directly below the centerline of the luminaire to the lowest direct-light-emitting part of the luminaire.

Horizontal Illuminance: The measurement of brightness from a light source, usually measured in foot-candle or lumens, which is taken through a light meter's sensor at a horizontal position.

Indirect Light: Direct light that has been reflected or has scattered off of other surfaces.

Lamp: The component of a luminaire that produces the actual light.

Lowest Direct-Light Emitting Part (LDLEP): The lowest part of either the lamp or lamps, the reflector or mirror, and/or refractor or lens.

Light Trespass: The shining of light produced by a luminaire beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is located.

Lumen: A unit of luminous flux. One foot-candle is one lumen per square foot. For the purposes of this Section, the lumen-output values shall be the initial lumen output ratings of a lamp.

Luminaire: This is a complete lighting system, and includes a lamp or lamps and a fixture.

Neon Lighting: Any tubular lighting of which the primary source of light is gaseous.

Outdoor Lighting: The night-time illumination of an outside area or object by any man-made device located outdoors that produces light by any means.

Single-Plane Lens: A refractor or lens, mounted in the horizontal plane, which by design, allows direct light to be emitted only through the horizontal plane.

Temporary Outdoor Lighting: The specific illumination of an outside area or object by any man-made device located outdoors that produces light by any means for a period of less than 45 days, with at least 180 days passing before being used again.

Uplighting: Any light source that distributes illumination above a 90 degree horizontal plane.