



# Illinois Department of Transportation

## Memorandum

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To: Regional Engineers  
From: Maureen M. Addis *MA*  
Subject: Special Provision for Portable Changeable Message Signs  
Date: January 13, 2017

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This special provision was developed by the Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering to reduce the minimum height of a portable changeable message sign (PCMS) in rural areas which is consistent with the MUTCD. This special provision has been revised by the Bureau of Construction to address recommendations from the IDOT/Industry Joint Cooperative Committee to pay for PCMS by the calendar day instead of calendar month.

This special provision should be inserted into contracts utilizing portable changeable message signs.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the April 28, 2017 and subsequent lettings. The Project Development and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory January 13, 2017.

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## **PORTABLE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS (BDE)**

Effective: November 1, 2016

Revised: April 1, 2017

Revise the second paragraph of Article 701.20(h) of the Standard Specifications to read:

“For all other portable changeable message signs, this work will be paid for at the contract unit price per calendar day for each sign as CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN.”

Revise this second sentence of the first paragraph of Article 1106.02(i) of the Standard Specifications to read:

“The message panel shall be a minimum of 7 ft (2.1 m) above the edge of pavement in urban areas and a minimum of 5 ft (1.5 m) above the edge of pavement in rural areas, present a level appearance, and be capable of displaying up to eight characters in each of three lines at a time.”

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