

Requirements for A-boards on the public highway

1. All A-boards placed on the highway must be able to be moved freely and easily. An A-board must not be attached to any sort of object on the highway. Whilst positioned on the highway they must be stable and kept upright, this can include being safely and discretely weighted down if required.
2. The A-board shall not cause any damage to the highway, or impede surface water drainage or obstruct access to any premise.
3. A-boards will be the owner's responsibility when placed on the highway, and the highway authority will not be liable for any damage or injury caused to highway users. The owner must hold Public Liability Insurance to indemnify the Kent County Council up to the value of £5 million against any liability, loss or damage, claim of proceeding whatsoever arising under Statute or Common Law in respect of the placing of temporary obstructions on the highway or their removal there from.
4. The A-board must relate to the normal business of the premises. Each premise will only be allowed one A-board. If your business has 2 entrances on 2 different streets, you may be allowed 2 A-boards if there is adequate footway space. The A-board must not be placed on the public highway where a private forecourt is available.
5. All A-boards may only be displayed during business hours and must be removed outside of these hours. The A-board must not be positioned remotely from the property.
6. A-boards must not cause a visual distraction to drivers of road vehicles or obstruction to pedestrians on the highway.
7. A-boards should be easily detectable and noticeable to users who have visual impairments and situated in such a way that they can be negotiated with ease by users with mobility problems. A minimum unobstructed footway width of 1.5m should be maintained at all times, 2m is desirable and should be aimed for where possible. Exceptionally 1.3m of unobstructed footway may be allowed in places of low pedestrian footfall. No A-board may be positioned in areas of high pedestrian flow if specified by the highway authority, or where there is not enough remaining footway.
8. The A-board must be between: 0.8m to 1.05m high and 0.45m to 0.7m wide.
9. An A-board must be removed or repositioned with immediate effect if requested by the Highway Authority or member of the emergency services or an officer from a local authority in the interest of access to the highway or to maintain the highway.
10. Planning permission may be required. You should contact you local Borough / District Council planning authority for further information.
11. Nothing in these guidelines absolves those concerned from their legal responsibilities under the Highways Act 1980 and other relevant legislation, including the content on the A-board from S.5 of the Public Order Act 1986.