

Huerfano County
 Land Use Department
 400 Main Street, Suite B
 Walsenburg, Colorado 81089
 719-738-1220 ext. 103

**HUERFANO COUNTY
 DARK SKY REGULATIONS
 SECTION 15.00**



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15.01 REGULATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT, ORIENTATION, DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS AND FIXTURE TYPES OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING

15.01.01 Intent and Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to regulate the placement, orientation, distribution patterns, and fixture types of outdoor lighting. The intent of this Section is to encourage lighting that, while providing safety, utility, and security, also prevents glare on public roadways and other property, reduces atmospheric light pollution, and to provide clear regulations for lighting consistent with industry standards and available technologies. This effort is to minimize glare, light trespass, misdirection of lights, and to also protect nighttime public safety, security, privacy, productivity, and movement of vehicles and persons.

15.01.02 General Provisions

1. Nothing in this Section is intended to preclude compliance with the Huerfano County Land Use regulation, or other State and Federal regulations as they may exist. Where Federal, State or County requirements conflict with the provision of this Section, the more restrictive standard shall apply.

Nothing in this Section is intended to prevent the use of any design, materials, or method of installation not specifically prescribed by this Section provided any such alternative system approved by the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners. Any alternative system may be approved if the proposed design, material or method provides approximate equivalence or exceeds the specific requirements of this Section and complies with the intent of this Section.

2. All lighting designed constructed, erected, or otherwise placed into operation or any alterations, relocation or renovation to more than 75 percent of existing light fixtures commenced after November 1, 2006, shall be in compliance with this Section.

Pre-existing and legally installed lighting before November 1, 2006, are exempt from the requirements of the Section for the life of the light fixtures.

All mercury vapor lighting must be replaced by 2011 as per Federal regulation. (Section 135 of the Energy Policy Act dated August 8, 2005).

15.01.03 Prohibitions

The installation or maintenance of any of the following shall be prohibited in all zone districts except as stated in Section 1.03 of the Huerfano County Land Use Regulations unless they have been approved by the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners.

1. Strobe lights.
2. Search lights.
3. Lasers and other high intensity beams.
4. Blinking, flashing, flickering, rotating, pulsing, or changing intensity lights.

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5. Any incident or reflected light that may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device, except as authorized by the State, Federal, or County government.

15.01.04 Exemptions

The following shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section.

1. Holiday lights in the nature of decoration, clearly incidental and customary and commonly associated with any national, local or religious holiday, special events, provided that such lights shall be illuminated for a period of not more that 60 consecutive days nor more than 60 days in any one year. Holiday lights may be of any type, number, area, height, location, illumination or animation, except that they shall not produce incident or reflected light that may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device.
2. Any lighting required by the FAA for air traffic control, navigation, and warning purposes.
3. Emergency lighting as required by law enforcement or emergency services.
4. Street or road lighting.
5. Construction lighting provided such lighting is temporary and is discontinued immediately upon completion of the construction.
6. Traffic control.
7. Vehicular lights.
8. Lighting associated with farming and ranching uses where such uses constitute the principal use of the property. This exemption also applies to the associated farm or ranch residence. Land simply zoned "agricultural" shall not be a sole basis for this exemption.
9. Sports/athletic field lighting and sports complex lighting.

15.01.05 Standards

The following fixtures shall be shielded, unless otherwise specified in this Section.

1. All fixtures over 175 watts must be shielded.
2. Shielding shall not be required for lamps which accent entranceways, building facades, art sculptures, flags, statuary, and other similar objects provided this light is narrowly focused on the object of interest. This exception does not include walk lighting.
3. Lighting shall not exceed one tenth (0.1) foot-candle as a direct result of the on site lighting measured twenty (20) feet beyond the property line.
4. Pole mounted lighting shall not be greater than 25 feet in height. Lighting for public sport facilities shall be exempt from this height provision.
5. Descriptions of light fixtures, including lamps, poles or other supports and shielding devices which may be provided as catalogue cut sheets from the manufacturer, as the foot-candle shown on a ten (10) foot maximum grid.

15.01.06 Outdoor Lighting Design Standards

All lighting shall be designed, located, installed and directed in such a manner to prevent objectionable light at and across property lines and to prevent glare at any location on or off the property.

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All fixtures shall be shielded in such a way as to prevent glare and/or light trespass from all building, site and aesthetic lighting.

Maximum light levels shall not exceed one-tenth (0.1) foot-candle as a direct result of the on-site lighting measured twenty (20) feet beyond the property line.

15.01.07 Security Lighting

Security lighting shall use the lowest possible illumination to effectively allow surveillance and not to exceed five (5) foot-candles.

Fixtures shall be full cut-off fixtures.

Light shall be shielded and aimed so that illumination is directed to the designated areas.

Maximum light levels shall not exceed one-tenth (0.1) foot-candle as a direct result of the on-site lighting measured twenty (20) feet beyond the property line.

15.01.08 Variances

Variances from various provisions of the zoning regulations are heard by and decided by the Board of Adjustment. See Section 9.02