

761—117.8(306B,306C) Removal procedures. The department shall cause to be removed every advertising device illegally erected or maintained and every abandoned sign.

117.8(1) Removal of illegal and abandoned advertising devices. In accordance with Iowa Code sections 306B.5 and 306C.19, an advertising device erected or maintained in violation of Iowa Code chapter 306B or 306C or these rules is a public nuisance and may be removed by the department upon 30 days' notice, by certified mail, to the owner of the advertising device and to the owner of the land on which the advertising device is located.

a. The notice shall require the owner of the advertising device to remove the advertising device if it is prohibited, or to cause it to conform to the provisions of these rules if it is not. The department may revoke a permit issued for the advertising device as part of the same notice, in which case, the notice shall be served by restricted certified mail or by personal service.

b. If the advertising device has not been removed or made to conform with the provisions of these rules, the advertising device is deemed to be forfeited and the department may enter upon the land and remove the advertising device, aided by injunction to abate the nuisance and to ensure peaceful entry, if necessary.

c. Costs of removal, including fees and costs or expenses as may arise out of any action brought by the department to ensure peaceful entry and removal, shall be assessed against the owner of the advertising device. Should the owner of the advertising device fail to pay such fees, costs, or expenses within 30 days after assessment, the department may commence an action to collect them.

d. The advertising device may be used, scrapped, dismantled, or otherwise destroyed or disposed of by the department as it sees fit.

e. No compensation shall be paid to the owner of any advertising device which is illegally erected or maintained.

117.8(2) Removal from right-of-way and other state-owned property. The department shall remove advertising devices erected upon the right-of-way of any primary highway; see subrule 117.2(6). Unauthorized advertising devices erected upon other property owned by the state of Iowa are subject to removal by the agency, board, commission or department having control or jurisdiction of the property. [ARC 2645C, IAB 8/3/16, effective 9/7/16; ARC 6020C, IAB 11/3/21, effective 12/8/21]