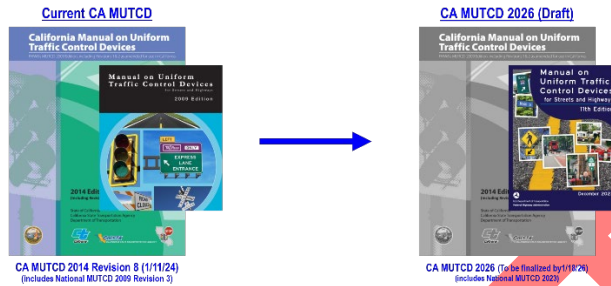


National MUTCD 2023 Table Comparisons (Draft)



The National MUTCD 2023 is published by Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F. On December 19, 2023, a Final Rule adopting the National MUTCD 2023 was published in the Federal Register with an effective date of January 18, 2024. States must adopt the National MUTCD as their legal State standard for traffic control devices within two years from the effective date.

Caltrans began the process to review National MUTCD 2023 for adoption in California by soliciting CA MUTCD practitioners statewide to form 10 Subject Matter Expert (SME) Workgroups based on the individual Parts of the MUTCD. Each SME Workgroup conducted weekly/bi-weekly review meetings to discuss changes in the National MUTCD 2023 and compare them with current California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 to assess potential impacts of adopting these changes in California. SME Workgroup members provided comments and recommendations to Caltrans, to assist with the development of these initial draft documents. Caltrans is preparing the initial draft version of CA MUTCD 2026 to revise California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 (current) to be in substantial conformance with FHWA's National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition). Initial draft chapters of CA MUTCD 2026, as they are completed, are being posted on the webpage and open to public for review and providing comments.

This "Table Comparisons" document has been prepared by Caltrans to share the changes that are reflected in CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version tables, when compared to National MUTCD 2023 tables, as well as current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 tables (which were based on National MUTCD 2009). This document identifies California specific tables that are incorporated into CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version and tables that are not incorporated and provides brief explanation, if they aren't incorporated. This document is being provided for ease in comparison, when reviewing CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft.

Though every effort has been made by Caltrans to ensure accuracy of this document, the inherent variances between National MUTCD and California MUTCD, along with moving of contents and reorganization undertaken by FHWA in the National MUTCD 2023, there may be unintentional errors or omissions in this document or some contents may have been overlooked.

Reference documents and information related to California's National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts is available at the following websites:

- National MUTCD 2023 - <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>
- National MUTCD 2023 review (including CA MUTCD 2026 Drafts) - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/nmutcd>

Table changes reflected in CA MUTCD 2026 initial draft version, when compared to current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 and National MUTCD 2023, are provided as follows:




- **Blue text, "X" and/or blue rectangle**  and **Blue highlighted text** - Revisions to National MUTCD 2009 Tables in current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 that continue to be applicable to National MUTCD 2023 Tables, are being retained and shown with markups with text comments added for explanation.
- **Green text and/or green rectangle**  and **Green highlighted text** - Changes in National MUTCD 2023 Tables, when compared to current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 Tables (which were based on National MUTCD 2009) are shown with markups and text comments are added for explanation.
- **Red text, black text with red strikethrough, "X" and/or red rectangle**  and **Red highlighted text** - New changes that are being proposed for the National MUTCD 2023 tables or current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 tables are shown with markups and text comments are added for explanation. These changes are new, some of them are needed due to the changes in National MUTCD 2023, while others are based on current SME Workgroup member reviews and recommendations to improve CA MUTCD.

Table 1D-1. Acceptable Abbreviations
General Abbreviations

Word Message	Standard Abbreviation
Afternoon / Evening	PM
Alternate	ALT
AM Radio	AM
Avenue	Ave, Av ⁵
Bicycle ⁷ s	BIKE, ⁸ BIKES
Boulevard	Blvd*
Bridge	(See Table 1D-2)
CB Radio ⁹	CB
Center	Ctr ¹⁰
Circle	Cir*
Civil Defense	CD
Compressed Natural Gas	CNG
Court	Ct*
Crossing (other than highway-rail)	X-ING
Drive	Dr*
East	E
Electric Vehicle	EV
Expressway	Expwy*
Feet	FT
FM Radio	FM ¹⁹
Freeway	Fwy*
Hazardous Material ²⁰	HAZMAT, ²¹ HAZMATS
High Occupancy Vehicle ²²	HOV
Highway	Hwy*
Hospital	HOSP
Hour(s)	HR, HRS
Information	INFO
Inherently Low Emission Vehicle	ILEV
International	Intl
Interstate	(See Table 1D-2)
Junction / Intersection	JCT
Lane	(See Table 1D-2)
²⁷ Liquefied Petroleum Gas	LP-GAS
Maximum	MAX

Word Message	Standard Abbreviation
Mile(s)	MI
Miles per Hour	MPH
Minimum	MIN
Minute(s)	MIN, ⁶ MIN ^S
Morning / Late Night	AM
Mount	Mt**
Mountain	Mtn**
National	Natl**
North	N
¹² Northeast	¹² NE
¹³ Northwest	¹³ NW
Parkway	Pkwy*
Pedestrian ¹⁴	PED, ¹⁵ PED ^S
Place	Pl*
Pounds	LBS
Road	Rd*
Saint	St**
South	S
¹⁶ Southeast	¹⁷ SE
¹⁸ Southwest	¹⁸ SW
State, county, or other non-US or non-Interstate numbered route	(See Table 1D-2)
Street	St*
Telephone	PHONE
Temporary	TEMP
Terrace	Ter*
Thruway ²³	Thwy*
Ton(s)	T
Trail	Tr*
Turnpike	Tpk*
Two-Way Intersection, ²⁴ Two-Way Traffic	2-WAY
US Numbered Route	²⁶ (See Table 1D-2)
West	W

Days of the Week

Day	Standard Abbreviation
Sunday	SUN
Monday	MON
Tuesday	TUE ³⁰ **
Wednesday	WED

Day	Standard Abbreviation
Thursday	THURS ²⁹
Friday	FRI
Saturday	SAT

* Abbreviation shall not be used for any application other than the name of a roadway. See Table 2D-3 for complete list of street name descriptors. Examples include: Bayshore Fwy, Cross County Hwy, Mid-County Pkwy

** Abbreviation shall not be used for any application other than as a descriptor or title within a proper name. Examples include: Vestal Ctr, Mt Hope, Pocono Mtn, Eldorado Natl Forest, St Louis

*** Tuesday and Thursday may be abbreviated on a Changeable Message Sign (CMS) to TUE and THU, respectively, when the number of Characters in a message to be displayed cannot be practically reduced through rewording to fit the number of characters supported by the CMS, such as might occur at times on a portable CMS.

Note: Abbreviations shown in upper- and lower-case lettering may be in all upper-case lettering when displayed on a changeable message sign with lower resolution that will not accommodate lower-case letter forms. See Chapter 2L of this Manual.

Summary of Comments on NMUTCD 2023 Chap 1D Tables

Page: 44

Number: 1	Author: s116730Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:04 PM
NMUTCD 2023 separated this table into "General Abbreviations" and "Day of the Week" and moved all word message abbreviations for day names, such as "Monday", "Tuesday" and so on through "Sunday" to the table portion shown below		
Number: 2	Author: Johnny Bhullar	Subject: Highlight
Date: 8/23/2024 3:03:51 PM		
Author: Johnny Bhullar		
Subject: Sticky Note		
Date: 8/23/2024 3:06:03 PM		
NMUTCD 2023 changed Table IA-1 to Table 1D-1.		
Number: 4	Author: s116730Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:04 PM
For some of these abbreviations, text has been changed from uppercase to lowercase text		
Number: 5	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:54:44 PM
Number: 6	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:04 PM
Number: 7	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:04 PM
Number: 8	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 9	Author: s116730Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
NMUTCD 2023 deleted text "... (as part of a place name)..."		
Number: 10	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 11	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 12	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 13	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 14	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 15	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 16	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 17	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 18	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 19	Author: s116730Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Text "FRWY, FWY" changed to "Fwy"		
Number: 20	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 21	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 22	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
Number: 23	Author: s116730Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 8/23/2024 2:56:39 PM
NMUTCD 2023 changed text "Tons of Weight" to "Ton(s)"		
Number: 24	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Number: 25	Author: s116730Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Text "US" changed to "(See Table 1D-2)"		
Number: 26	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Number: 27	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Number: 28	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Number: 29	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Number: 30	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM
Number: 31	Author: s116730Subject: Highlight	Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:21 PM

Table 1D-2. Abbreviations that Shall be Used Only for Temporary Messages on Portable Changeable Message Signs (Sheet 1 of 2)

Word Message	Standard Abbreviation	Prompt Word Preceding the Abbreviation	Prompt Word Following the Abbreviation	Example
Access	ACCS	—	Road	ACCS ROAD
Ahead	AHD	Fog	—	FOG AHD
Blocked	BLKD	Lane	—	2 LANES BLKD
Bridge	BR*	[Name]	—	BAY BR
Cannot	CANT	—	—	—
Center	CNTR	—	Lane	CNTR LANE, CNTR LN
Chemical	CHEM	—	Spill	CHEM SPILL
Condition	COND	Traffic	—	TRAFFIC COND
Congested	CONG	Traffic	—	TRAFFIC CONG AHD
Construction	CONST	—	Ahead	CONST AHEAD
Crossing	XING	—	—	PED XING
Do Not	DONT	—	—	—
Downtown	DWNTN	—	Traffic	DWNTN TRAFFIC
Eastbound	EAST	Route Number, Road Name	—	I-4 EAST
	E-BND	—	Lane, Traffic	E-BND LANE
Emergency	EMER	—	—	EMER VEHICLES
Entrance, Enter	ENT	—	—	ENT TO I-90
Exit	EX	Next	—	NEXT EX
Express	EXP	—	Lane	EXP LANE OPEN
Frontage	FRNTG	—	Road	FRNTG RD
Hazardous	HAZ	—	Driving	HAZ DRIVING
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing	RR XING	—	—	RR XING
Interstate	I-*	—	[Number]	I-80
It Is	ITS	—	—	—
Lane (travel lanes of a highway)	LN, LNS	Right, Left, Center	—	LEFT LN ONLY 2 RIGHT LNS
Left	LFT	Keep, Next	—	NEXT LFT
	LFT	—	Lane	LFT LANE
Local	LOC	—	Traffic	LOC TRAFFIC ONLY
Lower	LWR	—	Level	LWR LEVEL
Maintenance	MAINT	—	—	ROAD MAINT
Major	MAJ	—	Crash	MAJ CRASH
Minor	MNR	—	Crash	MNR CRASH
Normal	NORM	—	—	—
Northbound	NORTH	Route Number, Road Name	—	US 1 NORTH
	N-BND	—	Lane, Traffic	N-BND TRAFFIC
Oversized	OVRSZ	—	Load	OVRSZ LOAD
Parking	PKING	—	—	—
Pavement	PVMT	—	—	ICY PVMT
Prepare	PREP	—	To Stop	PREP TO STOP
Quality	QLTY	Air	—	AIR QLTY
Right	RT	Keep, Next	—	KEEP RT
	R	—	Lane	RT LANE
Road Work	WK	—	Ahead, [Distance]	RD WK 1 MILE
Route	RTE	Best	—	BEST RTE
Service	SERV	—	—	SERV AREA OPEN
Shoulder	SHLDR	—	—	SHLDR CLOSED

Number: 3 Author: Johnny Bhullar Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 3:06:58 PM

NMUTCD 2023 changed Table IA-2 to Table 1D-2.

Number: 4 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 5 Author: Johnny Bhullar Subject: Rectangle Date: 8/23/2024 3:01:43 PM

Author: Johnny Bhullar Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 3:03:10 PM

NMUTCD 2023 has added new column

Number: 6 Author: s116730 Subject: Rectangle Date: 8/23/2024 3:00:18 PM

NMUTCD 2023 has added new column

Number: 7 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "Prompt Word That Shall be Used Only on Portable Changeable Message Signs" to "Prompt Word Preceding the Abbreviation"

Number: 8 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "Prompt Word That Should Precede the Abbreviation" changed to "Prompt Word Following the Abbreviation"

Number: 9 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 10 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 11 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 12 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 13 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 14 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 15 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "[Roadway Name]" deleted

Number: 16 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 17 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 18 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 19 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 20 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "Accident" changed to "Crash" at 2 instances

Number: 21 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 22 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 23 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 24 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 25 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "Wet" changed to "Icy"

Number: 26 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Number: 27 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text changed from one word to two words

Number: 28 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "RDWK" changed to RD WK"

Number: 29 Author: s116730 Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Text "RT" deleted

Number: 30 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

Table 1D-2. Abbreviations that Shall be Used Only for Temporary Messages on Portable Changeable Message Signs (Sheet 2 of 2)

Word Message	Standard Abbreviation	Prompt Word Preceding the Abbreviation	Prompt Word Following the Abbreviation	Example
Slippery	SLIP	—	—	—
Southbound	SOUTH	Route Number, Road Name	—	SA 1 SOUTH
	S-BND	—	Lane, Traffic	S-BND TRAFFIC
Speed	SPD	—	—	SPD LIMIT
State, County, or other non-U.S. or non-Interstate numbered route	[Route Abbreviation determined by highway agency]*	—	[Number]**	NY 7, CR 43
Tires With Lugs	LUGS	—	—	—
Traffic	TRAF	—	—	—
Travelers	TRVLRS	—	—	—
Two-Wheeled Vehicles	CYCLES	—	—	—
Upper	UPR	—	Level	UPR LEVEL
S. Numbered Route	S*	—	[Number]**	US 202
Vehicle(s)	VEH, VEHS	—	—	—
Warning	WARN	—	—	—
Westbound	WEST	Route Number, Road Name	—	IL 53 WEST
	W-BND	—	Lane, Traffic	W-BND LANES
Will Not	WONT	—	—	—

¹² Abbreviation, when accompanied by the prompt word, may be used on traffic control devices other than portable message signs. See Table 1D-1 for uses and format.

** A space and no hyphen shall be placed between the abbreviation and the number of the route.

Note: See Chapter 2L of this Manual for additional information on changeable message signs.

Table 1D-3. Unacceptable Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Intended Word	Common Misinterpretation
ACC	Accident	Access (Road)
CLRS	Clears	Colors
DLY	Delay	Daily
FDR	Feeder	Federal
L	Left	Lane (Merge)
LT	Light (Traffic)	Left
PARK	Parking	Park
POLL	Pollution (Index)	Poll
RED	Reduce	Red
STAD	Stadium	Standard
WRNG	Warning	Wrong

NMUTCD 2023 has added new column

Number: 3 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 6 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 7 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 8 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 9 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 10 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 11 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 12 Author: s116730 Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 2:58:41 PM

Number: 13 Author: Johnny Bhullar Subject: Highlight Date: 8/23/2024 3:07:55 PM

NMUTCD 2023 changed Table IA-3 to Table 1D-3.