

18.95.050 Prohibitions and exemptions.

A. Prohibitions.

1. *Searchlights.* The operation of searchlights for advertising purposes is prohibited.
2. *Recreational Facility.* No outdoor recreational facility, public or private, shall be illuminated after 11:00 p.m. unless a temporary permit for a special event has been approved.
3. *Architectural Lighting.* Unshielded outdoor illumination on buildings is not permitted unless it is at a less than 90-degree angle and of filtration level approved by the zoning administrator. Exterior light fixtures attached to a building and designed as an integral part of the building may highlight building forms and architectural details as long as there is no direct spillover of light onto adjacent property and no light causes a hazard to motorists.
4. *Advertising Sign or Landscape Illumination.* The unshielded outdoor illumination of any advertising sign, landscaping or other purpose is prohibited. However, low voltage accent landscape lighting is allowed.
5. *Mercury Vapor.* The installation of new mercury vapor fixtures is prohibited. Existing mercury vapor fixtures shall be removed and replaced with compliant lighting fixtures wherever substantial alterations and additions are undertaken, exclusive of ordinary maintenance and repair.
6. *Fueling Service Canopies.* All lighting under fueling facility canopies, drive-through canopies, porte-cocheres, and similar structures shall be fully recessed. No portion of the fixture shall project below the ceiling of the canopy structure.

B. Permanent Exemptions.

1. *Fossil Fuel Light.* Produced directly or indirectly by the combustion of natural gas or other utility-type fossil fuels.
2. *Federal and State Facilities.* Those facilities and lands owned or operated as protected by the U.S. federal government or the state of Arizona are exempted by law from all requirements of this code. Voluntary compliance with the intent of this code at those facilities is encouraged.

C. Temporary Exemptions.

1. *By-Right Exemptions.* Temporary emergency lighting needed by police, fire, and other emergency services, as well as temporary lights for holiday decorations.
2. *Request for Temporary Exemptions.* Any individual may submit a written request to the zoning administrator for a temporary exemption from the requirements of this code through filing a temporary use permit pursuant to MCC [18.150.080](#). Such exemption will be valid for up to 30 days, renewable at the discretion of the zoning administrator. The request for temporary exemption shall contain the following listed information:
 - a. Specific exemptions requested;
 - b. Type and use of exterior light involved;
 - c. Duration of time for requested exemption;
 - d. Type of lamp and calculated lumens;
 - e. Total wattage of lamp or lamps;
 - f. Proposed location of exterior light;
 - g. Previous temporary exemptions, if any; and
 - h. Physical size of exterior light and type of shielding provided.
3. *Appeal for Temporary Exemptions.* The zoning administrator, within five days from the date of the properly completed request for temporary exemption, shall approve or reject in writing the request. If rejected, the individual making the request shall have the right of appeal to the Hearing Officer. [Res. 21-09; Ord. 21-05 § 2; Res. 14-36 § 405.04; Ord. 14-12 § 1. Formerly 18.95.040.]

The Maricopa City Code is current through Ordinance 23-09, passed March 7, 2023.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Maricopa City Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

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