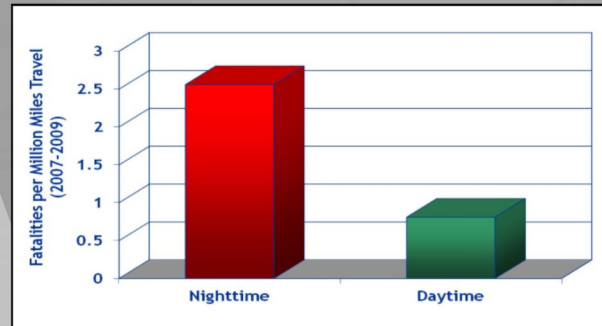
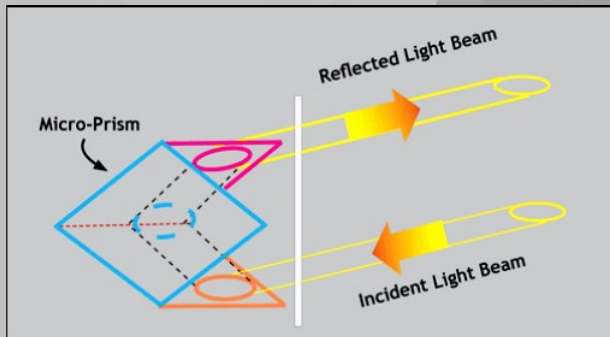


Why Do We Need to Worry About Retroreflectivity?

Every public agency responsible for maintaining public highways and streets is required to use retroreflective materials on traffic control devices to facilitate driver safety.

Why Are Retroreflectivity Standards so Important?



Retroreflectivity degrades over time. Upgrading poorly maintained traffic signs may reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. Highway statistics nationwide reveal that the nighttime fatal crash rate is approximately three times that of the daytime crash rate, measured in million miles traveled.

Responsibilities of Public Agencies

Public agencies should devote resources to retain the visibility and legibility of traffic signs, as well as ensure that signs remain properly mounted and in good working condition.

Guidelines for Establishing an Inspection Protocol

Your agency should develop specific guidelines for conducting nighttime inspections. The content of these guidelines is up to you and your agency, but the following considerations should be taken into account:

- > Consistency of testing conditions
- > Speed of vehicle appropriate to the roadway
- > Vehicle position and viewing distance
- > Type of headlamp and alignment
- > Safety issues related to conducting the inspections while in a moving vehicle
- > Recordkeeping and standardization of records
- > Replacement of signs

Find out more about the rules guidance available at

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/night_visib/sign_retro_4page.pdf

Sign Retroreflector Loan Program

This safety bulletin is brought to you by the New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program (NJLTAP). You can find out more about this program at <http://cait.rutgers.edu/njltap>, or contact Ted Green at tngreen@rci.rutgers.edu

"Retroreflectivity" refers to the ability of a traffic sign to reflect light back to driver, pedestrians, or cyclist. This becomes particularly important at night where poor visibility becomes an issue.

In an attempt to remedy this and improve safety standards, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released standards detailing minimum levels of acceptable sign retroreflectivity.

In an effort to help local agencies meet and maintain those federal standards, NJ LTAP has a retroreflector and accessories available for loan. The equipment may be borrowed up to two weeks at a time, with the only requirement being the completion of the Equipment Loan Agreement.

This program will help your local agency:

- Save Money - Retroreflectometers are expensive tools, and this program allows you to use this valuable piece of equipment at no cost to you.
- Gain Experience - NJ LTAP will train your agency in the proper care and use of equipment and make sure personnel are comfortable and well versed in taking the necessary readings.
- Improve Safety - While alternatives exist, the Retroreflector is one of the most efficient tools local agencies have to stay current with safety standards
- Try before you Buy - Thinking about buying a sign retroreflector? This program offers you a great way to test out the product before making the purchase.

The New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). Check our webpage at cait.rutgers.edu/cait/training for dates where you can get your township trained!

