

Transportation Safety Division

3M™ Sign Warranty Bulletin

3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic
3M™ MCS™ Warranty
March 2023

Replaces 3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic 3M™ MCS™ Warranty Dated March 2016

1 General Warranty Information

1.1 Warranty Coverage Overview

The 3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic and the 3M™ MCS™ Warranty are offered to the sign fabricator (“**Fabricator**”) for a rigid traffic sign (“**Sign**”). The Fabricator may extend these warranties to their customers. Additional warranties, if any, offered by the Fabricator are separate and exclusive of the MCS Warranty for Traffic and MCS Warranty.

The warranty periods for eligible graphics are as stated in the warranty matrices found on the [3M Transportation Safety Division MCS Warranty website](#) at the time that the 3M sheeting product was purchased. The warranty period may be reduced and stipulations may apply for certain constructions and applications, as covered in this bulletin.

Warranty coverage is contingent upon the exclusive use and processing of 3M system of matched components products, as indicated in Table 1, according to all applicable 3M guidelines described in relevant 3M product bulletins, information folders, and similar product literature. Failure to follow such descriptions and instructions will void all warranties and limited remedies.

Table 1. MCS components for each imaging method.

Digital Imaging	Screen Printing	Electronically Cuttable Film	Unimaged Sheeting and Direct Applied Copy
Base Sheeting	Base Sheeting	Base Sheeting	Base Sheeting
Ink	Ink	Electronically Cuttable Sheeting	Cut copy sheeting
Digital Printer Solution (Includes printer, software, and settings/profiles)	Thinner	Prespacing Tape (SCPS-2 or SCPM-3)	Prespacing Tape (SCPS-2 or SCPM-3)
Clear Overlay Film	Flow Additive (3M Process Color 892 Flow Additive)	Premasking Tape (SCPM-3)	Premasking Tape (SCPM-3)
Slipsheeting	Clear Overlay Film	Transfer Tape (TPM-5)	Transfer Tape (TPM-5)
	Slipsheeting	Clear Overlay Film	Clear Overlay Film
		Slipsheeting	Slipsheeting

Note that not all sign constructions require the incorporation of all the materials listed in Table 1 for a given imaging method. However, where a sign construction does require the use of a component material, that material must be the appropriate 3M matched component product. The warranty matrices define what materials are required to produce a MCS eligible sign construction.

2 3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic

3M warrants (“**MCS Warranty for Traffic**”) that, in the United States, a Sign containing only the standard traffic colors¹ and black (“**Traffic Colors**”), made with the purpose of conforming to the standard traffic colors¹ using the combinations of 3M retroreflective sheeting (“**Sheeting**”), ink (“**Ink**”), electronically cuttable films (“**EC Films**”), and clear overlay film or overprint ink (“**Overlaminates**”), as given in the 3M MCS Warranty for Traffic Matrix for the imaging method (“**Imaging Method**”) used: EC Films and direct applied copy, screen printing, or digital printer solution, which includes printer, software, and settings/profiles (“**Printer**”), will,

- Remain legible when viewed from a moving vehicle under normal day and night driving conditions by resisting excessive fading, discoloring, cracking, crazing, peeling, and blistering (“**Legibility Warranty**”), and
- After cleaning, retain a minimum percentage of coefficient of retroreflection (“**Retroreflection Retention Warranty**”),

for the number of years (“**Warranty Period**”) shown in the 3M MCS Warranty for Traffic Matrix for the Imaging Methods used.

3M also warrants (“**Durability Warranty**”) that the unimaged portion of the Sign will resist excessive fading, discoloring, cracking, crazing, peeling, and blistering for the Warranty Period shown in the [3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for Unimaged 3M™ Retroreflective Sheeting Products](#).

3 3M™ MCS™ Warranty

3M warrants (“**MCS Warranty**”) that, in the United States, a Sign containing any color not made with the purpose of conforming to Traffic Colors² using the combinations of Sheeting, Printer, Ink, EC Films, and Overlaminates as given in the 3M MCS Warranty Matrix for the Imaging Method used, will remain legible by resisting excessive fading, discoloring, cracking, crazing, peeling, and blistering, for the Warranty Period shown in the warranty matrix.

3M also provides a Durability Warranty for the unimaged portion of the Sign, warranting that the unimaged portion will resist excessive fading, discoloring, cracking, crazing, peeling, and blistering for the Warranty Period shown in the [3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for Unimaged 3M™ Retroreflective Sheeting Products](#).

1. For specific standard color information, please see the applicable 3M MCS Warranty for Traffic Matrix for the Printer.

2. For specific color information, please see the applicable 3M MCS Warranty Matrix for the Printer.

4 Limited Remedy

If a Sign is proven not to have met either the 3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic or 3M™ MCS™ Warranty, then the owner's exclusive remedy, and 3M's sole obligation, at 3M's option shall be: (a) if this occurs during the sign restoration remedy portion of the Warranty Period as given in the respective warranty matrix, 3M will, at its expense, restore the Sign's surface to its original effectiveness (this remedy shall include only the expense of making the new Sign face including the aluminum Sign substrate, but shall not include other hardware or labor to install the replacement Sign); or (b) if this occurs during the materials replacement remedy portion of the Warranty Period as given in the respective warranty matrix, then 3M will furnish only the necessary Sheeting, Overlamine, EC Film, and Ink quantities required to restore the Sign's surface to its original effectiveness.

5 Terms and Conditions

- The Warranty Period is measured from the Sign manufacturing date ("**Fabrication Date**"). Claims made under this warranty will be honored only if the Sign was dated on the Fabrication Date using a permanent method (sticker, permanent marker or crayon, metal stamp, etc.), records and retains of such production data traceable to the printed Sign are maintained, 3M is notified of a 3M™ MCS Warranty for Traffic/ 3M™ MCS™ Warranty ("**MCS Warranties**") claim during the applicable Warranty Period, 3M is provided with the information reasonably required to validate the claim, and 3M is permitted to verify the cause of the failure.
- For digitally imaged Signs, for the MCS Warranties to apply, 3M recommended settings and/or profiles applicable for the Sheeting must be used on the printer. 3M may revise recommended settings based on internal or external test data, and may update the relevant information folder(s) to reflect any material changes in the recommended settings and/or profiles for the Printer. Failure to use the updated settings and/or profiles will void the MCS Warranties. However, such changes in recommended settings do not retroactively invalidate the MCS Warranties made prior to such notice.
- For digitally imaged Signs, Printer shall be maintained according to the Printer manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule at the time of Fabrication Date, and reasonable maintenance records shall be provided to 3M at 3M's request.
- The Fabricator shall follow all 3M recommended written processing guidelines during the manufacture of the Sign. All MCS materials shall be applied as recommended, to substrates that have been prepared in accordance with 3M recommended procedures. It is the responsibility of the Fabricator to ensure proper substrate preparation, follow approved application procedures, and maintain production data, which may include, but is not limited to, Printer profile use and conformance to all 3M recommended procedures. Such data shall be provided to 3M at 3M's request.
- All components involved in the MCS Warranties must be stored, applied, installed, processed, and used only as 3M recommends in the relevant product bulletins and other product information, such as information folders and as noted herein.
- A Sign's failure to meet the MCS Warranties must be solely the result of the design or manufacturing defects of the Sheeting or matched component materials listed in Table 1. 3M has no obligation under the MCS Warranties if failure is caused by factors external to 3M's control, including the following: (a) improper fabrication, handling, packaging, storing, shipping, maintenance, or installation; (b) non-vertical applications where the Sign is more than +/- 10% from vertical; (c) use of any material or product not included in the respective warranty matrix and Table 1; (d) use of application equipment not recommended by 3M; (e) failure of sign substrate; (f) loss of adhesion due to incompatible or improperly prepared substrate; (g) exposure to chemicals, abrasion, or other mechanical damage; snow burial or any other sign burial; (h) collisions, vandalism, or malicious mischief; (i) an act of God.
- 3M reserves the right to determine the method of replacement.
- Any replacement Sign will carry the MCS Warranty for Traffic or MCS Warranty only for the original Sign's unexpired Warranty Period.
- 3M makes no warranty or claims that a Sign covered under the 3M MCS Warranty will meet the color specifications of any agency or customer specifications, or of ASTM D4956.

5.1 Disclaimer

THE 3M WARRANTY IS MADE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OR CONDITION OF MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY ARISING OUT OF A COURSE OF DEALING OR OF PERFORMANCE, CUSTOM, OR USAGE OF TRADE.

5.2 Limitation of Liability

Except for the limited remedy stated above, and except where prohibited by law, 3M will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from the Signs or any 3M product, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages (including but not limited to lost profits, business, or revenue in any way), regardless of the legal theory asserted including warranty, contract, negligence, or strict liability.

6 Other Product Information

Always confirm that you have the most current version of the applicable product bulletin, information folder, or other product information from 3M's Website at <http://www.3M.com/roadsafety>.

7 Literature References

3M IF 1.4	Instructions for Interstate Squeeze Roll Applicator
3M IF 1.5	Hand Application Instructions
3M IF 1.6	Hand Squeeze Roll Applicator
3M IF 1.7	Sign Base Surface Preparation
3M IF 1.8	Process Colors Series 880 and 900 Instructions for Use
3M IF 1.10	Cutting, Premasking, and Prespacing
3M IF 1.11	Sign Maintenance Management
3M IF 1.17	User Guide 3M™ Reflective Sheeting and HP Latex 360/365 Printers
3M IF 1.19	Digital Imaging with Durst 163TS Printers on 3M™ Reflective Sheeting
3M IF 1.20	Digital Imaging with EFI H1625 RS Printer on 3M™ Reflective Sheeting
3M PB 1170	3M™ ElectroCut™ Film Series 1170
3M™ MCS™ Warranty Selector	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty Matrix for Durst 163TS and 163TS-HS Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty Matrix for EFI™ H1625-RS Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty Matrix for HP Latex 360/365 Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty Matrix for HP Latex 700/800 Series Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty Matrix for HP Latex 1500 Printer	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for Durst 163TS and 163TS-HS Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for EFI™ 1625-RS Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for HP Latex 360/365 Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for HP Latex 700/800 Series Printers	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for HP Latex 1500 Printer	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for ElectroCut™ Film Series 1170	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for Screen Printed Signs	
3M™ MCS™ Warranty for Traffic Matrix for Unimaged 3M™ Retroreflective Sheeting Products	

ASTM Test Methods are available from ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA.

For Information or Assistance

Call: 1-800-553-1380

In Canada Call:

1-800-3M HELPS (1-800-364-3577)

Internet:

<http://www.3M.com/roadsafety>

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