



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Engineering Services Division
Technical Memorandum No. 03-19-C-02
October 8, 2003

To: Distribution 57, 612, 618 and 650

From: Richard A. Stehr
Division Director
Engineering Services

Subject: NCHRP 350 Crash Testing Requirements for Category I and II Temporary Traffic Control Devices.

Expiration:

This is a new Technical Memorandum and will continue in force until July 30, 2008, unless superseded or placed in the Road Design Manual.

Implementation:

All Category I and Category II temporary traffic control devices used on Mn/DOT Construction and Maintenance projects on or after January 1, 2006 shall meet NCHRP 350 crash testing criteria.¹ This includes all new and used Category I and Category II devices. Category I devices include tube markers, plastic drums and cones, etc. Category II devices include portable sign supports, Type I, II and III barricades, etc.

Introduction:

On October 1, 2000, FHWA enacted a requirement that all Category I & II temporary traffic control devices produced after that date and used on the National Highway System need to meet NCHRP 350 crash testing criteria. Mn/DOT has included that language on all State Projects and has also enforced that policy on State Maintenance Projects during the interim period. At the time the requirement was put into effect, very few devices had been crash tested successfully. FHWA gave the department a certain amount of flexibility in enforcement while new designs were tested and new products came on the market. This has been accomplished.

Purpose:

The sunset date of January 1, 2006 will provide contractors with a reasonable period to replace inventories with NCHRP 350 compliant devices. It will improve overall safety of motorists, simplify contract administration, and ensure consistency.

Guidelines:

The Web Site provided in Footnote 1 below lists the work zone devices which have been approved by FHWA. This includes both generic and proprietary devices. Manufacturers of the devices will provide the approval letters to the Contractors. Contractors will provide the acceptance letters, with approved drawings to Mn/DOT prior to starting work.

Questions

Questions regarding the content of this Technical Memorandum may be directed to Craig Mittelstadt, Work Zone Safety Specialist at (651) 296-5714.

Any questions regarding publication or distribution of this Technical Memorandum should be referred to Mohammad Dehdashti, Design Standards Engineer, at (651) 296-4859 or Design Services Section at (651) 296-2381. All active and a list of historical Technical Memoranda can be viewed at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/tmemo/index.html>.

¹FHWA Website for Approved Work Zone Devices,
<<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fourthlevel/hardware/listing.cfm?code=workzone>>