

New Jersey Department of Transportation
CORRECTIVE ACTION NOTICE

CAN No. CAN053

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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Approved: B. Strizki

Date: March 5, 2002

Subject: Reset Beam Guide Rail

Bureau(s) Affected: All Design Consultants & Sub-Consultants
In-House Production Units/QA Review Units

Description of Issue(s):

When existing beam guide rail within a project's limits is substandard or damaged, it is required to be replaced or reset. There have been reported instances where designers specify "Reset Beam Guide Rail" on the plans and during construction, it is determined that the existing posts are less than 6'-0" long and therefore do not meet current design requirements. As a result, additional costs and project schedule delays have been incurred because of the contractor's need to order additional posts.

The current Standard Roadway Construction Details require the use of wooden or synthetic spacers (steel spacers are no longer acceptable) and 6'-0" posts (minimum). Existing beam guide rail posts that were installed prior to 1990 may consist of 5'-9" posts.

Corrective Action Plan:

When designers specify the use of reset beam guide rail, it is their responsibility to first evaluate the existing beam guide rail's condition by visiting the project site. It will also be the responsibility of the designer to exercise due diligence in verifying that the length of the posts being reused meets the minimum 6'-0" requirement. This should be accomplished by:

- ➔ Determining when the existing guide rail was installed by researching the information from the as-built plans.
- ➔ Inspecting the condition of the guide rail in the field in order to make a reasonable assumption as to whether it was installed after 1990.
- ➔ Inquiring of prior Resident Engineers, Maintenance personnel, property owners, etc.

If designers can determine the length of the posts after performing these tasks, the following shall be observed:

- ➔ If the existing beam guide rail posts are **less than 6'-0"**, then the entire guide rail run must be replaced with new beam guide rail, regardless of the rail element's condition.
- ➔ If existing beam guide rail posts are **6'-0" or longer**, then the beam guide rail must be reset according to **Subsection 612.07 Reset Beam Guide Rail** of the Standard Specifications.

In cases where designers are unable to determine the length of the existing guide rail posts, the pay item "beam guide rail" must be added to the contract. This may only be done **after performing the above tasks**.

If substandard post lengths (less than 6'-0") in a run of guide rail that is to be reset are encountered during construction, the Resident Engineer shall issue a Change Order to replace the guide rail under the "beam guide rail" pay item.

This corrective action plan shall apply to projects that contain reset beam guide rail where the Final Design Submission has not occurred as of the approval date of this Corrective Action Notice.

Implementation: *In accordance with the above requirement*