



Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH
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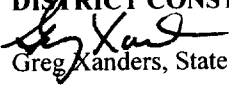
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.
SECRETARY

THIS MEMO HAS EXPIRED

May 21, 2002

MEMORANDUM NO: 12-02

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
FROM: 
Greg Xanders, State Construction Engineer
COPIES: Freddie Simmons, Brian Blanchard, William Nickas
SUBJECT: PROFILE GRINDING DECKS 8" OR LESS

It has recently come to our attention that some 8" thick bridge decks on new construction projects are being profile grinded. The grinding removes concrete from the entire deck surface thus leaving an average concrete cover which is far less than the 2" minimum required by design. This took place because the new specification requires grinding if the deck does not meet the profilograph tolerance for smoothness of bridges over 300' long (long bridges). The project personnel and the Contractor were not aware of the fact that the plans were supposed to require an 8-1/2" thick deck to compensate for the grinding if needed. This happened because there was a period of time when the new specification went into effect but there were plans that were too far advanced in design to change the deck thickness from 8" to 8-1/2". However, this was not communicated to the construction staff. Therefore, projects have been let with the new specification and the old deck thickness, and in at least four cases, no one realized that grinding should not have been done.

Please notify all Resident Engineers and Project Engineers that the new "long bridge" specification does not apply to decks of 8" or less in thickness. By this memorandum, profile grinding is prohibited for bridge decks of 8" or less; therefore, a supplemental agreement to formally change the specification will not be needed. A copy of this memorandum must be kept in the project file.

Henceforth, for all bridges with 8" decks, use specification 400-15.2.5.3, Smoothness Requirements for Short Bridges, which requires straight edging and spot grinding to meet smoothness requirements. **Do not use specification 400-15.2.5.4.**

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Plotkin at sc 994-4155.

GX/pw