



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

STATE MATERIALS OFFICE
5007 Northeast 39th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32609
Telephone: (352) 955-6600, Fax: (352) 955-6613

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

March 12, 2008

This Memo Has Expired

DCE MEMORANDUM NO. 04-08
(FHWA Approved: 3-12-08)

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: Brian A. Blanchard, Director, Office of Construction

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian A. Blanchard".

COPIES:

**SUBJECT: POLYMER LAMINATED STAY-IN-PLACE METAL BRIDGE
DECK FORMS**

The Department has recently approved polymer laminated (coated) stay-in-place (SIP) metal deck forms for use in moderately and extremely aggressive environments. Beginning January 2009, Contractors will have the option of using SIP forms for constructing bridge decks that span salt water environments as well as other previously prohibited environments. Revision of Standard Specification 400-5.7, SIP Metal Forms, to allow the use of coated forms is in the final stages and is expected to be implemented on projects with January 2009 letting dates.

If requested by a Contractor to use these SIP forms prior to January 2009 implementation of revised specification, please process a \$0.00 spec change to delete section 400-5.7 and replace with the attached latest draft version of the specification.

This memorandum serves as blanket approval to process the spec change and should be attached to the Work Order or Supplemental Agreement.

Please direct questions about this matter to Rafiq Darji (850-414-4195) or Steve Plotkin (904-360-5501).

BB/dpw

THIS IS A DRAFT SPECIFICATION THAT IS CURRENTLY IN THE REVIEW PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACTS ARE: RAFIQ DARJI, STEVE PLOTKIN, AND RODNEY POWERS. THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO REVISION.

**CONCRETE STRUCTURES – STAY-IN-PLACE METAL FORMS.
(REV 11-1-07)**

Section 400-5.7 is revised and expanded as follows:

400-5.7 Stay-In-Place Metal Forms:

400-5.7.1 General: Utilization of stay-in-place metal forms is permitted in lieu of removable forms to form concrete bridge decks between beams and between the webs of individual box girders when approved by the Engineer. Stay-in-place metal forms may be of the cellular or non-cellular type, however, do not use cellular type forms when polymer sheeting is required. The flutes of non-cellular stay-in-place metal forms may be filled with polystyrene foam or concrete. When polystyrene foam is used to fill the forms, fill form flutes completely; do not allow any portion of the polystyrene foam to extend beyond the limits of the flutes. Ensure that the polystyrene foam remains in its required position within flutes during the entire concrete placement process. Do not use reinforcing steel supports or other accessories in such a manner as to cause damage to the polystyrene foam. Replace all damaged polystyrene foam to the satisfaction of the engineer.

When the bridge superstructure environment is classified as moderately or extremely aggressive due to proximity to saltwater, apply polymer sheeting to the entire exterior surface of stay-in-place metal forms, except that the exterior surface of stay-in-place metal forms used to form the area between the webs of individual box girders does not require polymer sheeting. When polystyrene foam is used to fill the flutes of stay-in-place metal forms, apply polymer sheeting on the entire inside surface for all environmental classifications. When the flutes are concrete-filled, polymer sheeting is not required on the inside surface of the stay-in-place metal forms. Use polymer sheeting materials and application methods as described herein.

Prior to using stay-in-place metal forms, submit detailed plans for approval of the forming system, including method of support and attachment and method of protecting the supporting structural steel components from welding effects. Submit design calculations for the forming system, which have been signed and sealed by the Specialty Engineer. Detail stay-in-place metal forms such that they in no way infringe upon the concrete outline of the slab shown on the plans. Use stay-in-place metal forms that provide and maintain the dimensions and configuration of the original slab in regards to thickness and slope.

Do not weld stay-in-place metal form supports and connections to the structural steel components. Do not connect polymer coated angles or other hardware that support polymer coated metal forms to the beam attachment straps or clips by welding.

Protect structural steel components from damage by using a shield to guard against weld splatter, weld overrun, arc strikes, or other damaging effects of the welding process. Upon completion of welding, rest the metal form support flush on the supporting steel component. Should any weld spatter, weld overrun, arc strike, or other effects of the welding process be evident or occur to the structural steel component, immediately stop in-place welding of the metal form supports for the remainder of the work. In this event, weld all metal form supports off of the structure and erect the forms after prefabrication, or use an alternate approved method of attaching the form supports. Remove improper weldment, repair the supporting steel component for any improper welding. Perform all required verification and testing at no expense to the Department and to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

Do not use stay-in-place metal forms until the forming system has been approved by the Engineer. The Contractor is responsible for the performance of the stay-in-place forms.

Where stay-in-place metal forms are permitted, the Contractor is responsible and shall obtain the approval of the Engineer for any changes in design, etc. to accommodate the use of stay-in-place forms. The Engineer will compute pay quantities of the various components of the structure which are paid on a cubic yard basis from the design dimensions shown on the plans with no allowance for changes in deflection or dimensions necessary to accommodate the stay-in-place forms or concrete to fill the form flutes. The Engineer will limit pay quantities of other Contract items that the Contractor increases to accommodate the use of stay-in-place forms to the quantity required for the original plan design.

Submit all changes in design details of bridge structural members that support stay-in-place forms, showing all revisions necessary to enable the supporting components to withstand any additional weight of the forms and the weight of any extra concrete that may be required to fill the forms. Include with the design calculations a comparative analysis of the stresses in the supporting components as detailed on the Contract plans and as modified to support the forms. Use the identical method of analysis in each case, and do not allow the stresses in the modified components to exceed those of the component as detailed in the Contract plans. Include with the design the adjusted cambers for any changes in deflection over those shown on the original plans. Modify the beams to provide additional strength to compensate for the added dead loads imposed by the use of stay-in-place forms. Obtain the additional strength by adding strands to the pre-stressed beams or by adding steel material to increase the section modulus of steel girders. Substantiate the added strength by the comparative calculations. Do not use stay-in-place forms until the forming system and all necessary design revisions of supporting members have been approved by the Engineer.

Prior to using stay-in-place metal forms, submit detailed plans for approval of the forming system (including method of support and attachment) together with design calculations. Include an analysis of the actual unit weight of the proposed forming system over the projected plan area of the metal forms. If the weight thus calculated exceeds the weight allowance for stay-in-place metal forms and concrete

required to fill the forms shown on the plans, then modify the supporting components to support the excess weight as specified by the Contractor's Specialty Engineer.

For all structures utilizing structural steel supporting components, paint the vertical sides of the top flange prior to installation of the stay-in-place metal forms in accordance with Section 560.

For non-polymer sheeting form surfaces, use zinc paint coating in accordance with Section 562 to all accessories cut from galvanized sheets, which are not embedded in concrete.

400-5.7.2 Design: Meet the following criteria for the design of stay-in-place bridge deck forms:

1. Design the forms on the basis of dead load of form, reinforcement, and plastic concrete plus 50 lb/ft² for construction loads. Use a unit working stress in the steel sheet of not more than 0.725 of the specified minimum yield strength of the material furnished, but not to exceed 36,000 psi.
2. Do not allow deflection under the weight of the forms, reinforcement, and plastic concrete to exceed 1/180 of the form span or 1/2 inch, whichever is less, for form spans of 10 feet or less, or 1/240 of the form span or 3/4 inch, whichever is less, for form spans greater than 10 feet. In all cases, do not use a loading that is less than 120 psf total.
3. Use a design span of the form equal to the clear span of the form plus 2 inches. Measure the span parallel to the form flutes.
4. Compute physical design properties in accordance with requirements of the AISI Specifications for the Design of Cold Formed Steel Structural Members, latest published edition.
5. For all reinforcement, maintain the design concrete cover required by the plans.
6. Maintain the plan dimensions of both layers of primary deck reinforcement from the top surface of the concrete deck.
7. Do not consider the permanent bridge deck form as lateral bracing for compression flanges of supporting structural members.
8. Do not use permanent steel bridge deck forms in panels where longitudinal deck construction joints are located between stringers.
9. Secure forms to the supporting members by means other than welding directly to the member.

400-5.7.3 Materials:

400-5.7.3.1 Fabricate stay-in-place metal forms and supports from steel meeting the requirements of ASTM A653 having a coating designation G165. Do not use form materials that are less than 0.03 inch uncoated thickness.

400-5.7.3.2 Polymer Sheeting: Use polymer sheeting comprised of at least 85% ethylene acrylic acid copolymer capable of being applied to both G165 and G210 steel sheet as described in ASTM A742. Ensure that the polymer sheeting has a nominal thickness of 12 mils (0.012 inch) as manufactured and a minimum thickness of 10 mils (0.010 inch) after lamination to the steel sheet. Ensure that the polymer sheeting remains free of holes, tears and discontinuities and sufficiently flexible to withstand the forming process without any detrimental effects to durability or performance. Ensure that the polymer sheeting is UV stabilized and contains antioxidants. Ensure that the as-

manufactured polymer sheeting (prior to application) has an Oxidative Induction Time (OIT) of 60 to 75 minutes at 170 °C in air when tested according to ASTM D3895. Perform additional OIT tests on samples taken from the finished product (polymer sheeting applied to forms) resulting in a minimum OIT according to ASTM D3895 of 32 minutes at 170 °C in air. Ensure that the polymer sheeting adheres to galvanized metal sufficiently to prevent undercutting at penetrations made through the polymer sheeting or metal forms to the satisfaction of the Engineer. Ensure that edges subjected to shear cutting are coated by the form manufacturer with two coats of a compatible liquid coating repair material before delivery to the site. Ensure that steel used to produce polymer laminated metal forms is appropriately cleaned and prepared per NCCA (National Coil Coating Association) standard continuous coil coating practices. Ensure that pretreatment for use in conjunction with the manufacturer's polymer sheeting material is approved as compatible by the polymer sheeting manufacturer. Apply pretreatment in accordance with the polymer sheeting manufacturer's procedures. Apply polymer sheeting in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and procedures. Ensure that all steel has the polymer sheeting applied prior to fabrication of the stay-in-place forms and accessories.

Ensure that the screws to be used in the fastening of the stay-in-place laminated metal forms have a corrosion resistant cladding that will not have an adverse effect to the system due to the contact of dissimilar metals.

400-5.7.3.3 Provide a written certification from the manufacturer stating the product meets the requirements of this specification along with the delivery of the coated forms to the job site. Ensure that the certification conforms to the requirements of Section 6. Ensure that the manufacturer has a quality control program conforming to ISO 9001:2000 standards.

400-5.7.3.4 Polystyrene Foam: Use polystyrene foam comprised of expanded polystyrene manufactured from virgin resin of sufficient density to support the weight of concrete without deformation. Extrude the polystyrene foam to match the geometry of the flutes and provide a snug fit. Use polystyrene foam that has a density of not less than 0.8 lbs/cubic foot. Use polystyrene foam that has water absorption of less than 2.6% when tested according to ASTM C272. Provide a written certification from the manufacturer stating the product meets the requirements of this specification along with the delivery of the product.

400-5.7.4 Construction: Install all forms in accordance with approved fabrication and erection plans.

Do not allow form sheets to rest directly on the top of the stringer of floor beam flanges. Fasten sheets securely to form supports, and maintain a minimum bearing length of 1 inch [25 mm] at each end for metal forms. Place form supports in direct contact with the flange of the stringer or floor beam. Make all attachments for coated metal forms by bolts, clips, screws, or other approved means.

400-5.7.4.1 Form Galvanizing Repairs: For any permanent exposed steel where the galvanized coating has been damaged, thoroughly clean, wire brush, and paint it with two coats of galvanizing compound in accordance with Section 975 to the satisfaction of the Engineer. Do not touch up minor heat discoloration in areas of welds.

400-5.7.4.2 Polymer Sheeting Repairs: Inspect and identify areas for damage to the polymer sheeting and repair with liquid polymer coating similar and

compatible with respect to durability, adhesion and appearance in accordance with ASTM A762, as furnished by the stay-in-place form manufacturer. Ensure that the inspection includes checking the polymer sheeting for cuts, tears, cracking, surface pits, peeling, dirt, grease, oil, stains, rust or bare areas. Reject any panels that show coating blistering, peeling or cracking. Repair all polymer sheeting damage according to the following:

a. **Surface Preparation:** Ensure that all surfaces to be repaired are clean and free of any deleterious substances. Remove all traces of dirt, soil, oil deposits, greases, and other surface contaminants in accordance with the polymer sheeting and coating manufacturer's written specifications prior to touch-up and recoating.

b. **Application Procedures:** Ensure that the liquid polymer repair coating is applied to a clean dry surface and in accordance with the manufacturer's written specifications. Apply the repair coating using a suitable paintbrush or other means acceptable to the engineer. Apply a first coat of product to the surface at 2-4 mils in thickness. Let the first coat air dry. Apply a second coat to form a complete layer and increase the thickness, immediately after verifying the first coat is dry to the touch (15 - 25 minutes depending on the local air drying temperature and atmospheric conditions). Apply the second coat at the same coating thickness as the first at 2-4 mils. Ensure that the total dry film thickness of the two coats is not less than 6 mils. Apply additional coats in this same manner until desired coating thickness is achieved.

400-5.7.5 Placing of Concrete: Vibrate concrete to avoid honeycomb and voids, especially at construction joints, expansion joints, valleys and ends of form sheets. Use approved pouring sequences. Do not use calcium chloride or any other admixture containing chloride salts in the concrete.

400-5.7.6 Inspection: The Engineer will observe the Contractor's method of construction during all phases of the construction of the bridge deck slab, including the installation of the metal form system; location and fastening of the reinforcement; composition of concrete items; mixing procedures, concrete placement, and vibration; and finishing of the bridge deck. Should the Engineer determine that the procedures used during the placement of the concrete warrant inspection of the underside of the deck, remove at least one section of the metal forms in each span for this purpose. Do this as soon after placing the concrete as practicable in order to provide visual evidence that the concrete mix and the procedures are obtaining the desired results. Remove an additional section in any span if the Engineer determines that there has been any change in the concrete mix or in the procedures warranting additional inspection.

If, in the Engineer's judgment, inspection is needed to check for defects in the bottom of a deck or to verify soundness and bonding of the metal forms, sound the forms with a hammer as directed by the Engineer after the deck concrete has been in place a minimum of two days. If sounding discloses areas of doubtful soundness to the Engineer, remove the metal forms from such areas for visual inspection after the concrete has attained adequate strength. Remove metal bridge deck forms at no expense to the Department.

At locations where sections of the metal forms have been removed, the Engineer will not require the Contractor to replace the metal forms. Repair the adjacent metal forms and supports to present a neat appearance and to ensure their satisfactory retention and where they are polymer sheeted, coat all exposed surfaces of stay-in-place

Jobs with Stay-In-Place

Metal Forms

metal form system elements that are not coated or are damaged with a field applied liquid polymer coating as specified in 400-5.7.4.2 . As soon as the form is removed, the Engineer will examine the concrete surfaces for cavities, honeycombing, and other defects. If irregularities are found, and the Engineer determines that these irregularities do not justify rejection of the work, repair the concrete as directed, and provide a General Surface Finish in accordance with 400-15. If the Engineer determines that the concrete where the form is removed is unsatisfactory, remove additional metal forms as necessary to inspect and repair the slab, and modify the method of construction as required to obtain satisfactory concrete in the slab. Remove and replace all unsatisfactory concrete as directed, at no expense to the Department.

If the method of construction and the results of the inspections as outlined above indicate that sound concrete has been obtained throughout the slabs, the amount of sounding and form removal may be reduced when approved by the Engineer.

Corrosion of assembly screws will not be considered a structural or aesthetic problem and is considered acceptable.

Provide the facilities for the safe and convenient conduct of the inspection procedures.