



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

August 15, 2011

This Memo Has Expired

DCE MEMORANDUM 11-11
(FHWA Approved: August 16, 2011)

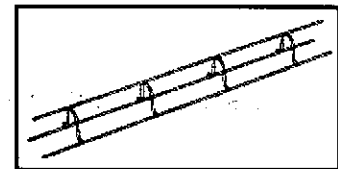
TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction

COPIES: Robert Robertson, Tim Ruelke, Tim Lattner, Chris Richter, Brian Blanchard, Bob Burleson, Chad Thompson, Abraham Scott, Rafiq Darji

SUBJECT: USE OF CONTINUOUS RAIL BOLSTERS FOR SUPPORT OF BRIDGE DECK REINFORCING BARS ON STAY-IN-PLACE (SIP) FORMS

Specification 415 currently prohibits the use of metal bolster rails in contact with SIP forms for the support of reinforcing bars in the bottom mat of bridge decks. However, it allows an exception if the environmental classification is slightly aggressive and the metal bolster rails are protected with plastic. After further consideration, the Department has decided to allow metal bolster rails to be in contact with SIP forms for all environmental classifications and without plastic protection with one exception. The specification revisions that will implement these changes are as follows:



TYPICAL BOLSTER WITH RAILS

Delete Specification 415-5.10.1 (a) and add the following revision:

415-5.10.1 Supports:

(a) Bottom Mats: In general, support the bottom mats of steel by one row of slab bolsters placed 6 inches from the edge of the slab and by two rows down each panel between beams. Bottom mat slab bolsters may not have rails in contact with removable forms. Do not use metal chairs and bolsters on stay-in-place forms when the form bottom is 12 feet or less above mean high water and the environmental classification is extremely aggressive. Do not allow the spacing between rows to exceed 4 feet, measured center to center.

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Delete Specification 415-5.13.1, paragraph 5, and add the following revision:

415-5.13.1, paragraph 5: For structural elements located in extremely aggressive environments, do not use metal bar supports in contact with removable forms or floor surfaces to support reinforcing steel.

Delete Specification 415-5.13.2, paragraph 1, and add the following revision:

415-5.13.2 Metal Bar Supports, paragraph 1: For metal bar supports in contact with boundary surfaces of concrete to be cast, provide supports constructed with molded plastic legs or plastic protected steel legs or bolster rails. Do not allow any portion of the bar support other than the molded plastic leg or plastic protected portion of the steel leg or bolster rail to be closer than 1/2 inch from the boundary surface of concrete to be cast.

This memorandum serves as blanket approval to process the specification revisions above with a zero dollar contract change on all future and ongoing projects.

For questions or discussion of this matter, contact Steven Plotkin at (904) 360-5501.

DS/pw