



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

August 26, 2014

DCE MEMORANDUM 18-14
(FHWA Approved: 8/25/2014)

This Memo has Expired

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

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

COPIES: Tom Byron, Bob Burleson, Rudy Powell, Chad Thompson, Rafiq Darji, Chester Henson, Gevin McDaniel

SUBJECT: CROSS-HOLE SONIC LOGGING TUBES AND REINFORCING STEEL CAGE IN DRILLED SHAFTS FOR MISCELLANEOUS STRUCTURES

Currently, Specification Subarticle 455-16.4 does not differentiate between drilled shafts for bridges and drilled shafts for miscellaneous structures so both types of drilled shafts require the extension of the Cross Hole Sonic Logging (CSL) tubes if the as-built tip elevation is below the plan tip elevation.

Effective with January 2015 lettings, the attached specification provides an exception for extending the CSL tubes and clarifies that the reinforcing steel cage does not need to be extended in drilled shafts supporting mast arms, cantilever signs, overhead truss signs, high mast light poles, or other miscellaneous structures.

This memorandum is blanket approval to process a \$0.00 specification change to incorporate the attached specification into construction contracts let prior to January 1, 2015 upon the contractor's request. Attach a copy of this memorandum and the attached specification to the Work Order or Supplemental Agreement.

If you have any questions concerning this memo please contact Rudy Powell at 850-414-4280 or Juan Castellanos at 850-414-4276.

DAS/rp

Attachment

455 STRUCTURES FOUNDATIONS – REINFORCING STEEL CONSTRUCTION AND PLACEMENT.

(REV 8-4-14) (FA 8-12-14) (1-15)

ARTICLE 455-16 is deleted and the following substituted:

455-16 Reinforcing Steel Construction and Placement.

455-16.1 Cage Construction and Placement: Completely assemble and place as a unit the cage of reinforcing steel, consisting of longitudinal bars, ties, and cage stiffener bars, immediately after the Engineer inspects and accepts the shaft excavation and immediately prior to placing concrete. Tie all intersections of drilled shaft reinforcing steel with cross ties or “figure 8” ties. Use double strand ties, ties with larger tie wire, U-bolts, or similar when necessary. The Engineer will give final approval of the cage construction and placement subject to satisfactory performance in the field.

455-16.2 Splicing Cage: If the bottom of the constructed shaft elevation is lower than the bottom of the shaft elevation in the Plans, extend a minimum of one half of the longitudinal bars required in the upper portion of the shaft the additional length. Continue the tie bars for the extra depth, spaced on 2 foot centers, and extend the stiffener bars to the final depth. The Contractor may lap splice these bars or use unspliced bars of the proper length. Do not weld bars to the planned reinforcing steel unless shown in the Contract Documents.

For drilled shafts supporting mast arms, cantilever signs, overhead truss signs, high mast light poles or other miscellaneous structures, if the shaft cleaning operations result in excavating below the required tip elevation, the reinforcing steel cage does not need to be extended. The reinforcing steel cage may be spliced to rest on the bottom of the excavation or suspended in place from the top.

455-16.3 Support, Alignment, and Tolerance: Tie and support the reinforcing steel in the shaft so that the reinforcing steel will remain within allowable tolerances as specified in 455-20 and Section 415.

Use wheels or other approved noncorrosive spacing devices within 3 feet of the bottom, within 6 feet of the top, and intervals not exceeding 10 feet along the shaft to ensure concentric spacing for the entire length of the cage. Do not use block or wire type spacers. Use a minimum of one spacer per 30 inches of circumference of cage with a minimum of four at each level. Provide spacers at the bottom of the drilled shaft reinforcing cage as required to maintain the proper position of the cage.

Check the elevation of the top of the steel cage before and after placing the concrete. If the cage is not within the specified tolerances, correct, and do not construct additional shafts until receiving approval from the Engineer.

455-16.4 Cross-Hole Sonic Logging (CSL) Tubes: Install CSL access tubes full length in all drilled shafts from the tip of shaft to a point high enough above top of shaft to allow CSL testing, but not less than 30 inches above the top of the drilled shaft, ground surface or water surface, whichever is higher. Equally space tubes around circumference of drilled shaft. Securely tie access tubes to the inside of the reinforcing cage and align tubes to be parallel to the vertical axis of the center of the cage. Access tubes from the top of the reinforcing cage to the tip of the shaft shall be NPS 1-1/2 Schedule 40 black iron or black steel (not galvanized) pipe. Access tubes above the top of the reinforcing cage may be the same black iron or black steel pipe or Schedule 80 PVC pipe. Ensure that the CSL access tubes are free from loose rust, scale, dirt,

paint, oil and other foreign material. Couple tubes as required with threaded couplers, such that inside of tube remains flush. Seal the bottom and top of the tubes with threaded caps. The tubes, joints and bottom caps shall be watertight. Seal the top of the tubes with lubricated, threaded caps sufficient to prevent the intrusion of foreign materials. Stiffen the cage sufficiently to prevent damage or misalignment of access tubes during the lifting and installation of the cage. Exercise care in removing the caps from the top of the tubes after installation so as not to apply excess torque, hammering or other stress which could break the bond between the tubes and the concrete.

Provide the following number (rounded up to the next whole number of tubes) and configuration of cross-hole sonic logging access tubes in each drilled shaft based on the diameter of the shaft.

Shaft Diameter	Number of Tubes Required	Configuration around the inside of Circular Reinforcing Cage
36 to 48 inches	4	90 degrees apart
Greater than 48 inches	1 tube per foot of Shaft Diameter	360 degrees divided by the Number of Tubes

Insert simulated or mock probes in each cross-hole-sonic access tube prior to concreting to ensure the serviceability of the tube. Fill access tubes with clean potable water and recap prior to concreting. Repair or replace any leaking, misaligned or unserviceable tubes as in a manner acceptable to the Engineer prior to concreting.

For drilled shaft foundations requiring anchor bolts, verify CSL access tubes will not interfere with anchor bolt installation before excavating the shaft. When CSL access tube locations conflict with anchor bolt locations, move the CSL access tube location plus or minus 2 inches along the inner circumference of the reinforcing cage. Notify the Engineer before excavating the shaft if the CSL access tube locations cannot be moved out of conflict with anchor bolt locations.

For drilled shafts supporting mast arms, cantilever signs, overhead truss signs, high mast light poles, or other miscellaneous structures, if the shaft cleaning operations result in excavating below the required tip elevation, the CSL tubes do not need to be extended. If the reinforcing steel cage is suspended in place from the top rather than resting on the bottom of the excavation, clearly mark the top of shaft location on each tube.