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Subject: ADA Issues Affecting Production

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Please reference my previous E-mail dated April 24, 2002 regarding Interim Index 0304 and implementation on Department projects, and Freddie Simmons' memo to District Secretaries, Production Directors, and Operations Directors dated March 5, 2002.

We have posted Interim Index 0304 Revised 6-06-02 to replace the version dated 4-11-02. This revision includes requirements for coloring of the ramp surface to comply with the contrast requirements of ADA Accessibility Guidelines Section 4.29.2 described as:

". . . raised truncated domes with a diameter of nominal 0.9 in., a height of nominal 0.2 in., and a center-to-center spacing of nominal 2.35 in. and shall contrast visually with adjoining surfaces, either light-on-dark or dark-on-light.

" The material used to provide contrast shall be an integral part of the walking surface. . . ."

Unless otherwise called out in the plans, the ramp detectable surface shall be colored in accordance with section 351 of the Standard Specifications. The color requirement is applicable for curb ramps adjoining non-colored sidewalks constructed with standard Class I Portland Cement Concrete in accordance with Section 522 of the Standard Specifications. Where adjoining sidewalks are colored or are constructed with materials other than Class I Portland Cement Concrete, the plans must provide for curb ramp surface colors or materials that contrast with the adjoining surfaces by at least 70%. More information on determining contrast can be found on the interim index.

My April 24, 2002 E-mail stated that the inclusion of Interim Index 0304 is mandatory on all projects beginning with the January 2003 letting. For contract plans let prior to January 2003, use is discretionary, although Districts should use this Interim Index to the extent practical without adverse impact to production schedules or budgets. This implementation date remains unchanged for projects where curb ramp construction has been identified in the contract plans.

As you are aware, the Department has been constructing curb ramps for many years. However, these ramps do not have truncated dome surfaces, and many were not constructed in compliance with ADA requirements for slopes, landings, etc. Furthermore, many existing sidewalks and driveways do not meet ADA slope requirements. It is therefore necessary that these ramps and sidewalks be evaluated for reconstruction, not only on new construction and reconstruction projects, but on RRR projects as well. This is in keeping with the direction issued in Freddie Simmons' memo.

Districts are advised to begin including replacement of existing ramps, sidewalks, and driveways on all RRR projects to bring these features into compliance unless such improvements are determined to be infeasible (See Simmons Memo). On some projects, this may involve saw-cutting the concrete to replace the tactile surface with detectable warnings and the required contrast. Other methods for providing detectable warnings with the required contrast, i.e., rubber mats, plastic mats etc. are optional but no standards or specifications have been developed at this time. Use of such options will require special details and technical special provisions.

Other needed ADA improvements must be addressed on RRR projects as well, including but not limited to existing signal poles, controller cabinets, and utility poles that reduce passage

widths to less than minimum. Regarding Utility installations in general, Districts should not permit Utility installations that violate ADA requirements.

It is understood these type upgrades have typically not been a part of RRR projects where curb ramps were previously constructed, and this will have impacts to the design scopes, production schedules and budgets for these projects. To allow an appropriate time to react to this requirement, Districts must begin addressing this work on all RRR projects beginning with the July 2003 letting.

Please advise appropriate staff and consultants. Contact me if you have any questions.



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