



Florida Department of Transportation

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Mail Station 32

DATE: August 6, 2001

TO: District Design Engineers
District Consultant Project Management Engineers

FROM: Brian Blanchard, PE
State Roadway Design Engineer

COPIES: Jim Mills, John Grant, Greg Xanders, Sharon Holmes, Billy Hattaway

SUBJECT: Guardrail End Anchorage Assemblies

It has come to our attention that Designers are sometimes unintentionally calling for specific guardrail end anchorages by brand name in contract plans. Unless the Designer has established and documented justification to restrict usage to a specific device, the plans should only designate the type of end anchorage (i.e., Flared, Parallel, Type II, Type CRT).

The following flared and parallel guardrail end anchorage types are included in the Roadway and Traffic Design Standards, and have been approved for use on FDOT projects:

Flared: REGENT
FLEAT-350
SRT 350
SRT/HBA-6 Post
MELT (for speeds less than or equal to 45 mph)

Parallel: ET 2000
BEST
LET
SKT 350

Conditions for use for each device are covered in the Design Standards. Flared end anchorages are the standard end anchorages, and parallel anchorages are to be used only where restraints prevent construction of the flared end anchorage (Index 400, General Note 6). All of these devices meet NCHRP 350 requirements and meet the minimum requirements for acceptability by FHWA for use on Federal Aid projects.

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August 6, 2001

Memo to District Design Engineers and District Consultant Project Management Engineers
Page 2

Obviously, when plans unintentionally call for a specific brand name device, this can result in bid prices higher than when all options are allowed. Further, even when plans call for a specific device, Contractors will still request CEI personnel to allow substitutions. CEI personnel must then follow up with Design to determine the Designer's intent. This is wasted time for all parties involved if the restriction is not justified or warranted.

We are currently reviewing our process for approving and selecting proprietary guardrail end anchorages for use on the State Highway System. This could lead to a reduction in the number of systems approved and would simplify both installation and maintenance. For now, however, all of the above systems are approved for use and plans should not identify specific proprietary end anchorages unless there is documented justification to do so.

Please contact me at 850-414-4377, Suncom 994-4377, if you have any questions.