



*Florida Department of Transportation*

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GOVERNOR

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KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.  
SECRETARY

August 14, 2020

Khoa Nguyen  
Director, Office of Technical Services  
Federal Highway Administration  
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400  
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Re: State Specifications Office  
Section: **455**  
Proposed Specification: **4550512 Structures Foundations.**

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

We are submitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Supplemental Specification.

The changes are proposed by Larry Jones by the Structures Design Office to modify internal gauges to embedded gauges.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks. Comments should be sent via email to [daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us)

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at 414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Daniel Strickland, P.E.  
State Specifications Engineer

DS/

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.  
State Construction Engineer

**STRUCTURES FOUNDATIONS****(REV ~~86-1330~~-20)**

SUBARTICLE 455-5.12.1 is deleted and the following substituted:

**455-5.12.1 General:** Dynamic load tests using an externally mounted instrument system and signal matching analyses or ~~embedded~~~~internal~~ gauges will determine pile capacity for all structures or projects unless otherwise shown on the Plans. When necessary, the Engineer may require static load tests to confirm pile capacities. When the Contract Documents do not include items for static load tests, the Engineer will consider all required static load testing Unforeseeable Work. Notify the Engineer two working days prior to placement of piles within the template and at least one working day prior to driving piles. Do not drive piles without the presence of the Engineer.

If the internally mounted system fails to communicate properly with the receiving system, allow the Engineer sufficient time to mobilize back-up equipment for performing dynamic load testing.

SUBARTICLE 455-5.14 is deleted and the following substituted:

**455-5.14 Dynamic Load Tests:** The Engineer will take dynamic measurements during the driving of piles designated in the Plans or authorized by the Engineer. For concrete piles, install instruments prior to driving and assist the Engineer in monitoring all blows delivered to the pile. For steel production piles, the Engineer may accept instrumented set-checks or redrives. The Engineer will perform dynamic load tests to evaluate any or all of the following:

1. Suitability of the Contractor's driving equipment, including hammer, capblock, pile cushion, and any proposed follower.
2. Pile capacity.
3. Pile stresses.
4. Energy transfer to pile.
5. Distribution of soil resistance.
6. Soil variables including quake and damping.
7. Hammer-pile-soil system for Wave Equation analyses.
8. Pile installation problems.
9. Other.

Either install ~~embedded~~~~internal~~ gauges in the piles in accordance with Standard Plans, Index 455-003 or attach instruments (strain transducers to measure force and accelerometers to measure acceleration) with bolts to the pile for dynamic testing.

Make each follower and pile to be dynamically tested with externally attached instruments available to drill holes for attaching instrumentation and for wave speed measurements. Support the pile with timber blocks placed at appropriate intervals. Ensure that the pile is in a horizontal position and does not contact adjacent piles. Provide a sufficient clear distance at the sides of the pile for drilling the holes. The Engineer will furnish the equipment, materials, and labor necessary for drilling holes and taking the wave speed measurements. If the Engineer directs dynamic load testing, instrumented set-checks or instrumented redrives, provide the Engineer safe access to the top of the piles for drilling the attachment holes. After placing the

leads provide the Engineer safe access to the piles to attach the instruments and for removal of the instruments after completing the pile driving.

The Engineer will monitor the stresses in the piles with the dynamic test equipment during driving to ensure the Contractor does not exceed the maximum allowed stresses. If necessary, add additional cushioning, replace the cushions, or reduce the hammer stroke to maintain stresses below the maximum allowable. If dynamic test equipment measurements indicate non-axial driving, immediately realign the driving system. If the cushion is compressed to the point that a change in alignment of the hammer will not correct the problem, add cushioning or change the cushion as directed by the Engineer.

Drive the pile to the required penetration and resistance or as directed by the Engineer.

When directed by the Engineer, perform instrumented set-checks or redrives. Do not use a cold diesel hammer for a set-check or redrive unless in the opinion of the Engineer it is impractical to do otherwise. Generally, warm up the hammer by driving another pile or applying at least 20 blows to a previously driven pile or to timber mats placed on the ground.

SUBARTICLE 455-7.2 is deleted and the following substituted:

**455-7.2 Manufacture:** Fabricate piles in accordance with Section 450. When ~~embedded~~~~internal~~ gauges will be used for dynamic load testing, supply and install in square prestressed concrete piles in accordance with Standard Plans, Index 455-003. Ensure the ~~embedded~~~~internal~~ gauges are installed by personnel approved by the manufacturer.

**STRUCTURES FOUNDATIONS****(REV 8-13-20)**

SUBARTICLE 455-5.12.1 is deleted and the following substituted:

**455-5.12.1 General:** Dynamic load tests using an externally mounted instrument system and signal matching analyses or embedded gauges will determine pile capacity for all structures or projects unless otherwise shown on the Plans. When necessary, the Engineer may require static load tests to confirm pile capacities. When the Contract Documents do not include items for static load tests, the Engineer will consider all required static load testing Unforeseeable Work. Notify the Engineer two working days prior to placement of piles within the template and at least one working day prior to driving piles. Do not drive piles without the presence of the Engineer.

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1. Suitability of the Contractor's driving equipment, including hammer, capblock, pile cushion, and any proposed follower.
2. Pile capacity.
3. Pile stresses.
4. Energy transfer to pile.
5. Distribution of soil resistance.
6. Soil variables including quake and damping.
7. Hammer-pile-soil system for Wave Equation analyses.
8. Pile installation problems.
9. Other.

Either install embedded gauges in the piles in accordance with Standard Plans, Index 455-003 or attach instruments (strain transducers to measure force and accelerometers to measure acceleration) with bolts to the pile for dynamic testing.

Make each follower and pile to be dynamically tested with externally attached instruments available to drill holes for attaching instrumentation and for wave speed measurements. Support the pile with timber blocks placed at appropriate intervals. Ensure that the pile is in a horizontal position and does not contact adjacent piles. Provide a sufficient clear distance at the sides of the pile for drilling the holes. The Engineer will furnish the equipment, materials, and labor necessary for drilling holes and taking the wave speed measurements. If the Engineer directs dynamic load testing, instrumented set-checks or instrumented redrives, provide the Engineer safe access to the top of the piles for drilling the attachment holes. After placing the

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