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Subject: Elimination of Index 521 Aluminum Pipe Handrails and Concrete Steps

Standard Index 521 Aluminum Pipe Handrails and Concrete Steps, will not be included in the 2004 edition of the Design Standards. Index 521 is no longer needed since a nearly identical rail system is provided in Structures Design Standard 870 Aluminum Pipe Guiderail, published October 2001.

The concrete steps detailed in Index 521 have limited application and use. There is currently no replacement standard drawing addressing concrete steps. The Structures Design Office Special Structures Section is currently developing a standard addressing concrete steps and plans to have a new standard published by January 2004.

The 2004 Design Standards will be effective beginning with the July 2004 letting. Therefore, beginning with the July 2004 letting it will be necessary that Structures Design Standard 870 be included in all plans calling for the 2 pipe (or 3 pipe) aluminum handrail system (limited to use where drop off hazards do not exceed 2'-6"). Prior to July 2004, Districts should use the more comprehensive Structures Design Standard 870 instead of Index 521 to the extent practical without adversely affecting production schedules and budgets. Both Standards use the same pay item, so it will not be necessary to change the pay item to use the Structures Design Standard instead of Index 521.

Also, beginning with the July 2004 letting, for plans calling for the concrete steps detailed in Index 521, it will be necessary to include project specific details in the plans, or the new standard if ready for use.

Please contact this office (850) 414-4377, Suncom 994-4377 if you have any questions on the elimination of Index 521. If you have questions regarding Structures Design Standard 870 or the development of a new standard for concrete steps, please contact the State Structures Design Office (850) 414-4260.

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