





# Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 21, 2005

**TO:** Specification Review Distribution List

**FROM:** Duane F. Brautigam, P.E., State Specifications Engineer

**SUBJECT:** **Proposed Specifications Change: 4150513-Reinforcing Steel-Chairs and Bolsters**

In accordance with Specification Development Procedures, we are sending you a copy of a proposed specification change to Reinforcing Steel-Chairs and Bolsters.

This change was proposed by Robert Robertson of the State Structures Office to specify the use of plastic chairs and bolsters throughout structures located in extremely aggressive environments.

Please share this proposal with others within your responsibility. Review comments are due within four weeks and should be sent to Mail Station 75 or to my attention via e-mail at SP965DB or duane.brautigam@dot.state.fl.us. Comments received after May 18, 2005, may not be considered. Your input is encouraged.

DFB/sh

Attachment

COMMENTS:

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Submitted by:

Phone #:

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**REINFORCING STEEL-METAL CHAIRS AND BOLSTERS.**  
**(REV ~~4-13-05~~ 4-20-05)**

SUBARTICLE 415-5.13.2 (of the Supplemental Specifications) is deleted and the following substituted:

**415-5.13.2 Metal Chairs and Bolsters:** *For ~~structures~~ structural elements located in extremely aggressive environments, do not use metal chairs and bolsters to support reinforcing steel against forms. Do not use metal chairs and bolsters for substructures in extremely aggressive environments.* For metal bar supports in contact with steel stay-in-place forms and metal bar supports in contact with boundary surfaces of concrete to be cast, provide supports constructed with molded plastic legs or plastic protected steel legs. Do not allow any portion of the bar support other than the molded plastic leg or plastic protected portion of the steel leg to be closer than 1/2 inch [13 mm] from the boundary surface of concrete to be cast.

Certify that all metal bar supports meet the following requirements:

(1) That they are manufactured from cold drawn steel wire in accordance with the wire sizes and geometrical dimensions shown in the CRSI Manual of Standard Practice, Chapter 3, Table II.

(2) That the plastic used for protection of the steel legs has a thickness of 3/32 inch [2.5 mm] or greater at points of contact with the form work.

Provide plastic protection by a dipping operation, by adding premolded plastic tips to the legs of the support or by molding plastic to the top wire of the support. Ensure that the plastic material used for protection of steel legs does not chip, crack, deform, or peel under ordinary job conditions. Provide molded plastic legs that have sufficient strength to carry the weight of the supported reinforcing steel in its required position without deformation and relaxation under job conditions.