INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Driving Indiana’s Economic Growth

Memorandum

December 2, 2008

CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM
08-15

TO: District Deputy Commissioners
   Technical Services Directors
   District Construction Engineers
   District Testing Engineers
   District Area Engineers
   Project Engineers/Supervisors

FROM: Mark A. Miller, Director
       Division of Construction Management

SUBJECT: Construction Zone Impact Attenuators

Standard Specifications effective for lettings since 9/1/05 require in section 801.10.1 that all energy absorbing terminals (aka impact attenuators or crash cushions) shall have a “redirect” capability. Units have been identified on active projects which do not meet this requirement. The result is that the ends of temporary concrete barrier are not being adequately shielded in the event of a collision whereby a vehicle hits the side of the attenuator. One specific non-compliant unit for this situation has been identified on a number of currently active worksites. This unit is called the ABSORB 350. While this unit has many applications it does not meet INDOT’s specification requirement to redirect traffic. This unit and other non-compliant units should be removed and replaced with compliant units immediately at no cost to the Department.

A copy of the FHWA approval letter is required to be furnished prior to the installations of any units. This letter should clearly state whether the unit has “redirect” capabilities or not. Not all NCHRP 350 approved devices meet this requirement. Questions or unique circumstances may be directed to a Field Engineer in this Division.

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