



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Mark A. Wissinger, PE
Construction Engineer

Date: July 11, 2003

Subject: Perforated Stop/Slow Flagger Paddles

A few months ago the traffic control contractors approached the department requesting to use perforated stop/slow flagger paddles. The argument for their use was they functioned better in high wind conditions and served the public better than using a non-perforated paddle or a flag. FHWA expressed concern that there was no standard for the sign face to ensure the shape and message was not lost due to the perforations. We asked the contractors to submit a template for review before their use became common. These perforated signs are being used more frequently and in several instances when wind was not a factor.

As the perforated signs top/slow paddles have not been formally accepted please advise your Project Managers to have them removed from use on projects until further notice. They should be replaced within 2 days of notification.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

MAW/MLB/mlb

CC: District Construction Engineers
Lloyd Rue, FHWA
Joel Marshik
Ken Neumiller

Ted Burch, FHWA
Construction Reviewers
Jim Walthers

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