

# **Type C Steady-Burn Warning Lights Guidance**

## **Revised 4/26/2018**

The purpose of this guidance is to provide MDT field crews with help in determining when to use Type C Steady-Burn warning lights. Questions have been asked during the 2009 construction season as to the use of Type C (steady burn) warnings lights.

MDT's standard is to not use steady burn lights (warning lights) on channelizing devices. The Detailed Drawings supports this by not showing the use of steady burn lights. The general rule of traffic control devices is to begin with the simplest of device and include additional devices, as conditions warrant, to attract the road user's attention.

According to the 2009 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 6F.83, Warning Lights:

- Type A Low-Intensity Flashing warning lights are used to warn road users during nighttime hours that they are approaching or proceeding in a potentially hazardous area.
- Type B High-Intensity Flashing warning lights are used to warn road users during both daylight and nighttime hours that they are approaching or proceeding in a potentially hazardous area.
- Type C Steady-Burn warning lights may be used during nighttime hours to delineate the edge of the travelled way. Flashing lights shall not be used for delineation, as a series of flashers fail to identify the desired vehicle path.

Type A Low-Intensity Flashing warning lights and Type C Steady-Burn warning lights shall be maintained to be visible on a clear night from a distance of 3,000 feet. Type B High-Intensity Flashing warning lights shall be maintained to be visible on a sunny day when viewed without the sun directly on or behind the device from a distance of 1,000 feet.

Use of flashing warning lights is permissible on the first one or two channelizing devices to attract the road user's attention.

Typical conditions that may justify the use of Type C Steady-Burn warning lights are:

1. Unusual geometric conditions such as cross-overs or detours on the inside of a curve,
2. Locations with continued poor visibility due to weather conditions or fog, specifically poor visibility sites where channelizing devices are to remain in place over the winter. Devices at these sites can become extremely dirty in a short period of time and can be hard to maintain retro reflectivity.
3. Do not use Type C Steady-Burn warning lights to improve the quality of devices. Replace devices if the quality of the channelizing devices is inadequate.
4. Improvement of delineation along the desired path where complete obliteration of existing pavement markings is not possible.

MDT Standard Specification 618.03.8, Traffic Control at Drop-off Areas, requires the use of Type C Steady-Burn warning lights on alternate portable vertical panels. The use of these lights and panels is determined by applying the spacing formula found in the specification.