



Subject: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons	
Date: February 10, 2016	Author: Steve Drew
Bulletin Number: TE 2016-03 Bulletin Type: Requirement	Effective Date: February 10, 2016
Audience	Standards Affected
Ministry Managers, Electrical Services; all users of the Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual; Traffic Engineers; all Electrical and Traffic Design Consultants	Electrical & Traffic Engineering Manual, Electrical & Signing Materials Standards, Standard Specification for Highway Construction

Background:

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are intended for use at special pedestrian crosswalks as an alternative to circular flashing beacons. Studies have shown, compared to circular beacons, the RRFB increases the likelihood that motorists will yield at an occupied crosswalk. The RRFB has an asymmetric wig-wag flash pattern that follows the MUTCD flash requirement of 70 – 80 periods of flashing per minute. During each flash cycle, one rectangular beacon emits two rapid pulses of light and the other emits three rapid pulses of light.

The RRFB has been approved as a traffic control device by the TAC Chief Engineers' Council and it will be included in the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada*.

A warrant system and guidance for the use of the RRFB is under development by TAC (December 2015) to ensure harmonized application in Canada.

Policy:

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons shall only be installed in locations approved by the Regional Traffic Engineer.

Approved installations shall be documented on electrical drawings with TE numbers assigned by the Ministry Electrical Engineering Centre. All designs shall be in accordance with the *Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual* and the *Standard Specification for Highway Construction*, and approved by the Electrical Engineering Centre. The drawings shall convey all pertinent electrical information, including the location, configuration, mounting details and power source.

Only products listed on the Ministry *Recognised Products List* may be used.



Procedure:

An application shall be made to the Regional Traffic Engineer for approval to install RRFB's. Once approved, the Electrical Engineering Centre shall be contacted to initiate the design and stipulate any documentation requirements or updates.

Sign design and installation details shall be in accordance of the appropriate sections of the *Ministry Manual of Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings*.

RRFB programming and commissioning shall be documented and retained by the Electrical Engineering Centre, the Manager Electrical Services, and the Electrical Maintenance Contractor.

The Manager, Electrical Services shall notify the appropriate power authority of the increased loading if the RRFB is connected to a non-metered electrical service.

All costs for the design, documentation, and installation of RRFB's will be borne by the originator of the request for the installation of the device.

Contact:

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