

Date: August 26, 1999

To: All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning & Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All District Highways Managers

SUBJECT:

Median Barrier and In-Road Delineation Products

PURPOSE:

1. Introduction of new approved products for median barrier delineation.
2. Identification of products not to be considered for Ministry application.
3. Identification of products that will be tested further.

BACKGROUND:

Several new median barrier products have been tested in the South Island District for their effectiveness, particularly in inclement weather and low light conditions. Additionally, an in-road delineator has been tested in South Okanagan District. Product effectiveness was quantified by the collecting driver comments telephoned in to the South Island District Office. As well, these products were assessed for their cost, maintenance, and installation. A summary of the results is tabulated overleaf.

In summary, passive products were less prone to vandalism and consequently required far less maintenance, compared to active systems. Active systems, however, tend to be more effective in the presence of oncoming traffic and can be seen from a greater distance, since they do not rely on headlights. Due to their greater visibility, yet higher costs, active systems are more appropriate for accident-prone locations and where vandalism problems can be overcome. Vandalism may be less in areas of higher, continuous (24hr) traffic volume.

The median barrier products were tested in mild climatic conditions only. Regions subject to heavy snowfall (and snowplowing) may require greater maintenance of the products, particularly for a roadside barrier application.

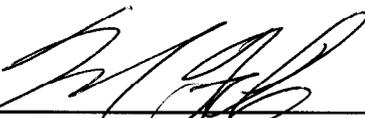
NEW POLICY:

- **Swareflex** passive barrier delineator included in Ministry's *Recognized Product List*.
- Apply at normal spacing, at 510mm (20") above ground level, and perpendicular to road surface (reflective surface to face on-coming traffic).
- Refer to the ***attached*** drawing.
- May be applied at 12.5m spacing in areas where greater visibility is justified.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Refer to **Standard Specifications for Highway Construction** for application details.

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