



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Regional Engineers
From: Jack A. Elston 
Subject: Special Provision for High Tension Cable Median Barrier
Date: July 24, 2020

This special provision was developed by the Bureau of Operations to create a statewide specification for the reflectors used on high tension cable median barrier. It has been revised to correct the breaking strength of the wire rope (cable) and to allow line posts to be driven directly into the soil or set in driven sockets.

This special provision should be inserted into contracts utilizing high tension cable median barrier.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the November 6, 2020 and subsequent lettings. The Project Coordination and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory July 24, 2020.

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HIGH TENSION CABLE MEDIAN BARRIER (BDE)

Effective: January 1, 2020

Revised: November 1, 2020

Revise Note 2 in Article 644.02 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“Note 2. The wire rope (cable) shall be according to AASHTO M 30, Type 1 with Class A coating, of the diameter shown in the manufacturer’s specifications. Additionally, the wire rope shall be prestretched and shall have a minimum breaking strength of 39,900 lbs (177 kN) for 3/4 in. (19 mm) wire rope (individual wire strength equivalent to 174,000 psi (1200 N/sq mm)) and the prestretched wire rope shall have a minimum modulus of elasticity of 11,805,000 psi (8300 kg/sq mm).”

Revise the first paragraph of Article 644.05 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“**644.05 Line Posts.** Line posts for the HTC median barrier shall consist of driving posts directly into the soil or setting posts in driven sockets or concrete socket foundations. Posts shall be placed at the spacing and depth recommended by the manufacturer.”

Revise Article 782.01 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“**782.01 Description.** This work shall consist of furnishing and installing reflectors on guardrail, barrier wall, high tension cable (HTC) median barrier, and curbs.”

Revise the first paragraph of Article 782.04 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“**782.04 Guardrail, Barrier Wall, and High Tension Cable Median Barrier Reflectors.** Guardrail, barrier wall, and HTC median barrier reflectors shall be according to the following.”

Add the following to the end of Article 782.04 of the Standard Specifications:

“(d) High Tension Cable Median Barrier Reflectors. HTC median barrier reflectors shall be monodirectional, and attached to each anchorage post and first line post. Beyond the first line post, the reflectors shall be spaced according to the following table.

Reflector Spacing Table	
Distance from HTC to Outside Edge of Shoulder	Nominal Spacing
≤ 8 ft (2.4 m)	80 ft (24 m)
> 8 ft (2.4 m) but ≤ 30 ft (9.1 m)	400 ft (122 m)
> 30 ft (9.1 m)	Omit Reflectors

HTC median barrier reflectors shall be attached at a minimum height of 24 in. (600 mm) above ground level at the base of the post. The method of attaching HTC median barrier reflectors shall be as specified by the manufacturer.”

Revise Article 782.07 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“782.07 Basis of Payment. This work will be paid for at the contract unit price per each for GUARDRAIL REFLECTORS, of the type specified, BARRIER WALL REFLECTORS, of the type specified, HIGH TENSION CABLE MEDIAN BARRIER REFLECTORS, or CURB REFLECTORS.”

Revise the first paragraph of Article 1097.02 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“1097.02 Guardrail, Barrier Wall, and High Tension Cable Median Barrier Reflectors. Guardrail, barrier wall, and HTC median barrier reflectors shall be according to the following.”

Revise the last paragraph of Article 1097.02 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“(d) High Tension Cable Median Barrier Reflectors. HTC median barrier reflectors shall be monodirectional, amber colored, and provide a minimum reflective area of 7 sq in. (4520 sq mm). The reflective sheeting shall meet Type AZ according to Article 1091.03, and meet the minimum coefficient of retroreflection for “white” and “yellow” as specified therein. The reflector shall be approved by the HTC system manufacturer as compatible with the system.

The base material shall be fabricated from high impact thermoplastic, polycarbonate, nylon, or other approved material which shall not shatter or crack under impact at temperatures of -30 °F (-34 °C).”

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