



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

August 14, 1998

Guardrail Standard Change

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

#98-11

In 1993, FHWA rulemaking mandated that roadside safety features installed after October, 1998 must meet the testing criteria of NCHRP 350. Testing under this criteria has indicated that the steel post, steel blockout guardrail configuration fails to meet the standards. A design that has passed is the steel post with routed wood blockout as shown on sheet 4 of Highway Standard 630001. An alternate to the wood blockout made from polymer has also passed.

Effective with contracts let after October 1, 1998, the steel post, steel blockout configuration will no longer be allowed on projects let in Illinois. Existing contracts will not be affected by the change; however, a contractor may elect to use the new design on existing projects. This change shall also apply to other guardrail and terminal section standards which previously utilized the steel blockouts. These revisions will be reflected in the next update of the Highway Standards by the Bureau of Design and Environment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Mike Vail of our office at 217/785-1664.

Sincerely,

*Darrell McMurray*

Darrell W. McMurray, P. E. *DM*  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets