

All Regional Engineers

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Special Provision for Impact Attenuators

September 30, 2011

This special provision was developed by the Bureau of Design and Environment. It has been revised to incorporate MASH testing criteria and to recognize Highway Standard 643001.

This special provision should be included on all contracts using impact attenuators in a permanent application.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the January 20, 2012 and subsequent lettings. The Project Development and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory September 30, 2011.

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## IMPACT ATTENUATORS (BDE)

Effective: November 1, 2003

Revised: January 1, 2012

Add the following to the Standard Specifications:

### “SECTION 643. IMPACT ATTENUATORS

**643.01 Description.** This work shall consist of furnishing and installing impact attenuators.

**643.02 Materials.** Materials shall be according to the impact attenuator manufacturer’s specifications and the following.

Item	Article/Section
(a) Fine Aggregate (Note 1).....	1003.01
(b) Steel Posts, Structural Shapes, and Plates .....	1006.04
(c) Rail Elements, End Section Plates, and Splice Plates .....	1006.25
(d) Bolts, Nuts, Washers and Hardware .....	1006.25
(e) Hollow Structural Tubing .....	1006.27(b)
(f) Wood Posts and Wood Blockouts .....	1007.01, 1007.02, 1007.06
(g) Preservative Treatment.....	1007.12

Note 1. Fine aggregate shall be FA 1 or FA 2, Class A quality. The sand shall be unbagged and shall have a maximum moisture content of five percent.

### CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

**643.03 General.** Impact attenuators shall meet the testing criteria contained in either NCHRP Report 350 or MASH and shall be on the Department’s approved list. Fully redirective and partially redirective attenuators shall be designed for bi-directional impacts.

**643.04 Installation.** Impact attenuators shall be installed according to the manufacturer’s specifications and include all necessary transitions between the impact attenuator and the item to which it is attached. Regrading of slopes or approaches for the installation shall be as shown on the plans.

The design for sand module impact attenuators (orientation and number of modules, sand weights, etc.) shall be as shown on the plans. Bases for sand module impact attenuators will be required. The bases shall be constructed of either portland cement concrete or hot-mix asphalt (HMA). Portland cement concrete bases shall be 6 in. (150 mm) thick and be according to the applicable requirements of Section 424. HMA bases shall be 8 in. (200 mm) thick and be according to the applicable requirements of Section 408. The surface of the base shall be slightly sloped or crowned to facilitate drainage. The perimeter of each module and the specified weight (mass) of sand in each module shall be painted on the surface of the base.

Bases for impact attenuators, other than sand modules, shall be installed when required by the manufacturer. The bases shall be constructed according to the manufacturer's specifications, on a prepared subgrade. The surface of the base shall be slightly sloped or crowned to facilitate drainage.

**643.05 Method of Measurement.** This work will be measured for payment as each, where each is defined as one complete installation.

Contract quantities for sand module attenuator bases may be accepted according to Article 202.07(a). When measured, sand module attenuator bases will be measured in place and the dimensions used to calculate square yards (square meters) will not exceed those as shown on the plans.

**643.06 Basis of Payment.** This work will be paid for at the contract unit price per each for IMPACT ATTENUATORS (FULLY REDIRECTIVE, NARROW); IMPACT ATTENUATORS (FULLY REDIRECTIVE, WIDE); IMPACT ATTENUATORS (FULLY REDIRECTIVE, RESETTABLE); IMPACT ATTENUATORS (SEVERE USE, NARROW); IMPACT ATTENUATORS (SEVERE USE, WIDE); IMPACT ATTENUATORS (PARTIALLY REDIRECTIVE); or IMPACT ATTENUATORS (NON-REDIRECTIVE), of the test level specified.

Sand module impact attenuator bases will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard (square meter) for ATTENUATOR BASE.

Regrading of slopes or approaches will be paid for according to Section 202 and/or Section 204 of the Standard Specifications.”

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