

July 1, 2002

**MEMORANDUM**  
**02-09**

**TO:** District Directors  
District Construction Engineers  
District Operations Engineers  
District Material and Tests Engineers  
Toll Road Operations Engineer  
Area Engineers  
Project Engineers/Supervisors

**FROM:** Timothy D. Bertram, Chief  
Contracts and Construction Division

**RE:** ET-2000 Manufacturer Recommended Installation Changes

There has been several calls coming into this office from maintenance personnel who are certified guardrail end treatment/attenuator installers/repairers. The ET-2000 which is one of the approved units that INDOT allows contractors to install on construction contracts at approach ends of guardrail runs has recently gone through some changes. The manufacturer has performed additional crash testing on this unit using longer posts without soil plates in certain post locations and determined that the unit will perform properly when impacted by a vehicle. The manufacturer also has developed a hinged breakaway steel post (HBA) that is an alternate to the breakaway wood post currently used in the ET-2000 system. These two changes have been approved by the Federal Highway Administration for use in the field.

The representatives of the manufacturer of the ET-2000 met with INDOT several months ago and requested that contractors be allowed to use these alternative products in the installation of the ET-2000 on construction projects if they so desire. We agreed to allow these modifications since our specifications state that units like the ET-2000 shall be installed according to manufacturer instructions and recommendations. The manufacturer of the ET-2000 unit was to inform all INDOT certified guardrail installers that these alternates were acceptable to INDOT by letter. It appears now that they did do that however they only notified contractor personnel and not INDOT maintenance personnel who are also certified installers.

This memorandum is therefore to be considered as notification to INDOT personnel that soil plates are not required if longer posts are used (see letter dated April 2, 2002 for more detailed information included with this memorandum) and steel breakaway posts may also be used in place of wood posts for the ET-2000 (see letter dated September 2, 1999 which is also included with this memorandum).

TDB/dak