

## Memorandum

**To:** DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction  
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS  
RESIDENT ENGINEERS

**Date:** November 29, 2001

**File:** Division of Construction  
Directive CPD 01-14

**From:** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

**Subject:** Quality of Traffic Control Devices

Traffic control is a necessary part of Caltrans construction projects to warn motorists of changed roadway conditions, advise them of the proper path through a work zone, delineate areas where the motorist should not operate a vehicle and separate traffic from road work activities. In order to achieve this, the contractor employs a system of short-term or long-term devices to aid the motorist through the work areas. The success of this system depends on the visibility of each device as it is used within the entire system. Devices are defined as: signs (portable or stationary), cones, delineators, barricades, channelizers, arrow boards, portable changeable message signs (PCMS) and temporary pavement markings (raised, taped or painted).

Construction area traffic control devices are currently addressed in the *Standard Specifications*, Section 12, and the *Manual of Traffic Controls* published by the Department; however, the issue of the quality of these devices needs deliberate attention.

Since it is not practical to require new devices for each project, standards are needed to assure continued effectiveness of the device. The resident engineer shall use the industry accepted standards in the publication by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) titled *Quality Standards for Work Zone Traffic Control Devices* as a guide to the acceptability of the contractor's traffic control devices. For a copy of this publication, see your district construction safety coordinator. If any device is determined by the engineer to be "Marginal," the contractor should be given a reasonable amount of time to remove and replace the device. If any device is determined to be "Unacceptable," the contractor is to remove and replace the device immediately.

Application of these standards meets the requirements of Section 12 of the *Standard Specifications*, Section 1, A-2 of the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD) and the Caltrans *Manual of Traffic Controls*. For authority refer to the *Standard Specifications*, sections including: 4-1.01, "Intent of Plans and Specifications;" 5-1.01, "Authority of Engineer;" 8-1.05, "Temporary Suspension of Work;" 8-1.08, "Termination of Control;" 12-1.01, "Description;" 12-3.06, "Construction Area Signs;" 12-3.10, "Traffic Cones;" and 12-4.01, "Measurement and Payment."



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