

Product Evaluation

RE: Review of Break-Safe™ Breakaway Support System for Sign Posts

PRODUCT

Transpo Industries Inc. in New Rochelle, New York developed the Break-Safe™ Breakaway Support System. Break-Safe™ symmetrical coupling design allows the system to breakaway with consistent predictable behavior regardless of the vehicle's angle of impact. Break-Safe is supplied by Safe Roads Highway Products Alberta Inc. located in Edmonton, Alberta.

VENDOR CLAIMS AND INFORMATION

CLAIMS

The Break-Safe Breakaway support system provides high structural load-carrying capacity. Break-Safe is designed to support a wide range of signpost sizes. Break-Safe's unique Omni-directional capability exceeds FHWA and AASHTO requirements for impact performance of breakaway supports. Product web link: <http://www.transpo.com/Break-Safe.html>

DESCRIPTION

Break-Safe is a breakaway support system for ground-mounted signs located within roadside clear zones or other locations vulnerable to vehicular impacts. The primary component of the system is a set of precision-machined couplings designed to breakaway quickly and cleanly upon impact.

POTENTIAL USAGE

Break-Safe is available in a variety of models designed to support different sign configurations and post types. No special tools or equipment are required to properly install and maintain Break-Safe.

STANDARDS

AASHTO Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, luminaries and Traffic Signals
FHWA approved
NCHRP Report 350 – Crash Test

ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION COMMENTS

EXPERIENCE

Alberta Transportation has used breakaway ground mounted posts similar to the Break-Safe product. Breakaway Ground Mounted Signs on I-Beam and Breakaway Ground Mounted Bases Steel I-Beam Posts are included in the typical drawing for sign installation in the Department's Traffic Control Standards Manual (TEB 1.82 and TEB 1.83).

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

The Alberta Transportation Specification for Breakaway Steel Sign Posts is as follows:

Standard Specification for Highway Construction 5.18 Supply of Permanent Highway Signs, Posts and Bases and Specification 7.7, Permanent Highway Signing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Post product information on the Alberta Transportation Products List under Proven Products, Signs and Support System: Supports, Breakaway Steel – Proprietary, Break-Safe™ Breakaway Support System based on the information provided.

TRIAL PROJECTS

Deerfoot Trail in Calgary

Whitecourt, 2km west on Hwy. 43 east bound at turn out. (installed 2003)

Joe Filice

cc New Product Evaluation Standing Committee – Terry Willis
Richard Chow