

## 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 Lecol Incorporated 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