

Product Evaluation

RE: Review of Midwest Guardrail System

PRODUCT

The Midwest Guardrail System is a non-proprietary variation of the Strong Post W-Beam Guardrail developed by the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility.

VENDOR CLAIMS AND INFORMATION

CLAIMS

Midwest Guardrail System is a low cost alternative for Strong Post W-Beam guardrails. The system is designed as a 31" top rail height. Product details can be found in the FHWA acceptance letters:

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/policy_guide/road_hardware/listing.cfm?code=long

DESCRIPTION

Midwest Guardrail System is mounted at 31" (787mm) and uses standard W-Beam rail. Standard W-Beam posts are also used, with less embedment depth to achieve the top rail height of 31" (787mm). The posts are spaced at 75" (1,905mm). A larger, 12 inch (305mm), spacer block is used. Rail splices are located mid-span between posts. A longer bolt is used to secure the rail and spacer block to the post.

POTENTIAL USAGE

The Midwest Guardrail System has been successfully crash tested and is Test Level 3 compliant for both NCHRP Report 350 and Mash 2008

STANDARDS

FHWA NCHRP Report 350 TL-3 Approved
FHWA MASH 2008 TL-3 Approved

ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION COMMENTS

EXPERIENCE

Alberta Transportation has no experience with this product

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

The Alberta Transportation specifications for guardrail are:

- Specification 2.19, Guardrail and Guideposts
- Specification 5.25, Supply of Thrie Beam and W-Beam Guardrail and Posts
- Specification 5.27, Supply of Cable Barrier and Metal Posts

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Midwest Guardrail System be listed as a Trial Product under Alberta Transportation Products List, Traffic Control Devices – W-Beam Guardrail and Posts – Steel Barrier Systems – Non-Proprietary, based on the information provided. Final acceptance as a proven product will be based on field performance.

TRIAL PROJECTS

AHD and 17th Street

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