

Product Evaluation

RE: Review of Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion

PRODUCT

The Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion is manufactured by Lindsay Transportation Solutions Barrier Systems located in Rio Vista, California and distributed by Roadway Traffic Products located in Edmonton, Alberta and Roadside Supply Ltd located in Ardrossan, Alberta.

VENDOR CLAIMS AND INFORMATION

CLAIMS

The Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion is a redirective, non-gating system designed for narrow hazards such as the ends of rigid or semi rigid barriers. Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion is designed and constructed to provide acceptable structural adequacy, minimal occupant risk and safe vehicle trajectory as per NCHRP 350. Product Web Link:

<http://www.barriersystemsinc.com/>

DESCRIPTION

The Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion is designed to shield the ends of median barriers and other fixed objects likely to be struck head-on, by absorbing and dissipating the kinetic energy of impacting vehicles. Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion consists of three beam side panels, slider bolts, backstop assemblies, cables and anchoring system. The absorbing cartridges are made of proprietary hyperelastic (HE) polyurethane. The Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion has been tested to meet the rigorous requirements of NCHRP Report 350, Test Levels 2 and 3.

POTENTIAL USAGE

There are three approved anchoring foundation configurations for the TAU-II system. The first method utilizes a solid concrete pad over the length of the system. The second utilizes concrete blocks at the backstop and front cable anchor locations. The third is on asphaltic concrete foundation. The X-Tension Median Attenuator System placement shall be done in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations set forth in the AASHTO roadside Design Guide.

STANDARDS

NCHRP 350 TL-3 Rated – FHWA 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:

The Universal TAU-II-R Crash Cushion be listed as a Reviewed Product under Alberta Transportation Products List, Highway Safety Devices – Impact Attenuators – Proprietary, based on the information provided.

TRIAL PROJECTS

16 Ave. NE by Crowchild Trail, Calgary
Hwy 53 approx 5km W. of Forestburg
Hwy 60 N. Saskatchewan River heading into Devon.

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cc New Products Evaluations Group – Roger Skirrow
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