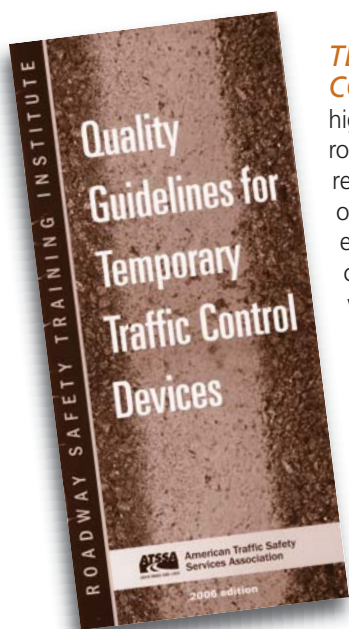


Quality standards for traffic control devices in work zones



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL devices support highway safety and efficient use of roadways during construction and repair projects. Wear and tear over time reduces the visible effectiveness of signs, drums, cones, tubular markers and other work zone devices, making them unsafe for use.

An updated handbook from the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) gives local agencies guidelines for evaluating the condition of used devices to assure they still do the job. The guidelines

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address day-to-day operations of traffic control devices within a work zone but do not cover emergency situations.

This pocket-sized publication reviews all major temporary traffic control devices and has descriptions and color photographs that identify three levels of device condition: **acceptable**, **marginal** and **unacceptable**. It also features sample specifications to help agencies interested in formally adopting the ATSSA standard.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation recently adopted the standard for all work zones on federal and state roads. The department encourages local governments to do the same for their own traffic control devices, contracts and permits. ■

Quality Guidelines for Temporary Traffic Control Devices is available from ATSSA's online store at www.atssa.com/store/bc_item_detail.jsp?productId=1.

Or contact ATSSA at 540-368-1701 in Fredericksburg, VA. The Transportation Information Center has a limited number of handbooks available for free. See *Resources* on page 11 for details.

Examples from ATSSA Guidelines

Used devices in the **ACCEPTABLE** category maintain their intended original shape and show minor tears, scratches or dents that do not seriously reduce reflectivity.



A device classed as **MARGINAL** continues to maintain its shape and, despite numerous abrasions, discoloration and permanent splatters, satisfies the lower end of acceptability.



The **UNACCEPTABLE** rating refers to devices with marring over a large surface area that reduces legibility and reflectivity, and punctures or dents that seriously alter its shape and strength.



CALENDAR

UW–Madison Seminars

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DECEMBER 2008

- 2-3** Implementing a Sidewalk Management System #J965
- 4-5** Solving Neighborhood Traffic Problems #K215
- 4-5** Essentials of Hydraulics for Civil Engineers and Designers #K496
- 8-10** Highway Bridge Design #K013
- 8-9** Comprehensive Practices for Effective Construction Project Management #K018
- 10** Principles and Practices of Construction Project Scheduling #K019
- 11-12** Principles and Practices of Estimating for Construction and Design Professionals #K020

JANUARY 2009

- 20-21** Improving Public Works Construction Inspection Skills #K098
- 21-23** Foundation Engineering and Design #K417
- 22-23** Maintaining Asphalt Pavements #K117

Independent Study – Enroll Anytime

Project Management 100: The Basics, Plus Important Insights #K205

Other Events

Pesticide Applicator Certification

Training manuals and other resources for Wisconsin Commercial Pesticide Applicator certification available online at the University of Wisconsin Pesticide Applicator Training Program website, <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat>, or contact:

Rose Scott at 608/262-7588 or PAT-program@facstaff.wisc.edu