



Concrete Traffic Barriers

One of the responsibilities of the Materials and Tests Division, Prefabricated Structural Materials Section (MTD-PSTR) had been the inspection of precast concrete traffic barriers (CTBs) produced at commercial fabrication plants for TxDOT construction projects. Due to changes in the 2004 TxDOT Standard Specifications book (or 2004 spec book), MTD-PSTR will no longer inspect and stamp approve CTBs.

MTD-PSTR now approves plants that produce CTBs rather than perform continual inspection of the product at these plants. Items 512 and 514 of the 2004 spec book require multi-project fabrication plants that produce CTBs to be approved in accordance with DMS-7350.

A multi-project fabrication plant is defined in Item 424 as a facility at an offsite location that fabricates precast prestressed or precast non-stressed members for more than one contract. MTD-PSTR is responsible for approval of these plants per DMS-7350. This process involves TxDOT-directed plant audits that check manufacturing processes, quality control procedures, cast product workmanship, documentation, etc. Plants that become approved are placed on the TxDOT Material Producer List (MPL) Internet Web page.

When the contractor receives precast CTBs that are not fabricated at or near the project location, the district should:

- verify that the CTBs were produced by an approved plant
- advise MTD-PSTR when CTBs are of questionable quality and
- attach a QM sample in SiteManager.

An exception to the above requirement is for temporary CTBs, per Item 512. When temporary barriers are furnished and then retained by the contractor, barriers from a nonapproved plant or previously used barriers may be furnished if the contractor submits written certification, per Item 512.

Manholes and Inlets

District project personnel had been responsible for the inspection of precast manholes and inlets. As a result of changes to the 2004 TxDOT Standard Specifications, MTD-PSTR will also have a degree of involvement with these products. Item 465 of the 2004 spec book requires multi-project fabrication plants that produce manholes and inlets to be approved in accordance with DMS-7340. MTD-PSTR will now approve these plants, per DMS-7340, and place each approved plant on the MPL.

When the contractor receives precast manholes and inlets that are not fabricated at or near the project location, the district should:

- verify that the manholes and inlets were produced by an approved plant
- advise MTD-PSTR when manholes and inlets are of questionable quality and
- attach a QM sample in SiteManager.

Precast CTBs, manholes, and inlets produced at or near the project location will continue to be inspected by district personnel. Feedback from the districts to MTD-PSTR on the quality of precast CTBs, manholes and inlets received at project sites will help TxDOT properly administer the plant approval programs as described in DMS-7350 and DMS-7340.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the content of this article, please contact Karl Janak, P.E., at 512-506-5922.