

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E. (signature on original)

CHIEF ENGINEER

ET-Plus System Guardrail End Treatment

Effective immediately and until further notice, there is a moratorium on new installations of the ET-Plus System guardrail end treatment manufactured by Trinity Highway Products, on MassDOT Highway Division projects and on MassDOT facilities, except as provided in the final paragraph below.

This Directive applies to active and future contracts where the ET-Plus System has yet to be installed.

MassDOT has issued this moratorium due to ongoing concerns regarding the performance of the ET-Plus System, some of which are identified in a research report conducted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Engineering, *In-Service Evaluation of FHWA-Accepted Guardrail Terminals*, dated September 11, 2014.

During this moratorium, the ET-Plus System guardrail end treatment will not be included in any MassDOT list of qualified traffic attenuators. Other acceptable NCHRP 350 and 2009 MASH approved options are available.

Existing, undamaged installations of the ET-Plus System may remain in place.

Existing installations of the ET-Plus System that are damaged by crashes or other means shall be replaced with a qualified guardrail end treatment system other than the ET-Plus System, regardless of the extent of the damage. No in-kind repairs of existing installations of the ET-Plus System will be allowed, except as provided below.

MassDOT may allow vendors who are unable to obtain other qualified guardrail end treatment systems to install or repair the ET-Plus System in locations that require immediate installations or repairs, until October 20, 2014. Such installations or repairs must be pre-approved by MassDOT and shall be limited to those situations where installing or repairing an ET-Plus System end treatment is the only feasible alternative.