

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVES AND STANDARDS

Volume : IV

Revision Date : 11/27/1977

Chapter : 5

Subject : **POLICY ON GATE ARMS FOR MOVABLE BRIDGES AND RAILROAD
GRADE CROSSINGS**

Section : 1

Directive : 2

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this directive is to establish a policy for the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Highways, regarding materials used on gate arms for movable bridges and railroad grade crossings.
2. **POLICY.** Gate arms installed at railroad grade crossings shall conform to the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and standards adopted by the Association of American Railroads. Gate arms installed at movable bridges shall basically conform to these same requirements except that it shall not be necessary to stripe the back side of the gate arm as is the case in railroad protection.
3. **IMPLEMENTATION.** Effective immediately, all gate arms fabricated by the central sign shop shall be reflectorized with encapsulated lens reflective sheeting. These are used primarily as replacements for gate arms installed at movable bridges; however, they may occasionally be used at a railroad crossing when urgent repairs are needed. Gate arms installed at railroad grade crossings are subject to the jurisdiction of various railroad companies and cannot be regulated by the Department. However, it is recommended that railroad companies consider the adoption of encapsulated lens reflectorization for railroad crossing gate arms since the material has demonstrated superior qualities to conventional means of reflectorization.

When a gate arm at a movable bridge is damaged or in need of replacement, care shall be taken to assure that gate arms on both approaches to the bridge are striped red and white. Should the remaining gate arm(s) display the old black and white stripes, the stripes shall be replaced at the same time even though they may still be in good condition.

In addition to damaged replacements, existing black and white gate arms at movable bridges are to be phased out over a two year period beginning September 1, 1977. Replacements of black and white stripes on the gate arms are to be made as work permits and are to be done at District sign shops utilizing materials available from the Traffic Services Section.

Concurrent with the specified changes made to the gate arms, barrier striping on existing movable bridges shall be changed from alternate black and white to red and white by replacing the black marking with red adhesive sheeting supplied by the Traffic Services Section. Red paint may be used in lieu of the reflective sheeting where it is impractical to use the latter.

4. **OTHER ISSUANCES AFFECTED.** This memorandum supersedes EDSM NO. IV.5.1.2, dated July 29, 1977.
5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This directive will become effective immediately upon receipt.

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