

Frequently Asked Questions

Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)

What is MASH?

In January 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a letter of joint agreement with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) outlining new requirements for highway safety hardware which includes permanent and temporary roadside barriers; longitudinal barriers, including those used on precast box culverts and 3-sided structures; and bridge rails.

How does this affect me and when will it take effect?

The FHWA mandated December 31, 2019, deadline is approaching for the following products to be MASH tested:

- Bridge rails, transitions, all other longitudinal barriers (including portable barriers installed permanently)
- Temporary work zone devices, including portable barriers, manufactured after December 31, 2019

These products must be successfully tested to the 2016 edition of MASH. Such devices manufactured on or before this date, and successfully tested to NCHRP Report 350 or the 2009 edition of MASH, may continue to be used throughout their normal service lives.

What should I do?

If you precast DOT barrier; longitudinal barriers, including those used on precast box culverts and 3-sided structures; or bridge rails, the time is NOW to talk to your DOT about their current strategy and policy to comply with these timelines.

What else do I need to know?

It should be noted FHWA has declared “normal service lives” will be defined and determined by each state DOT. Also, non-significant modifications of eligible hardware that have a positive or inconsequential effect on safety performance may continue to be evaluated using finite element analysis.

Reference Materials (precast.org/MASH)

1. NPCA Precast Inc. Article
2. FHWA letter of agreement with AASHTO
3. FHWA FAQ 1
4. FHWA FAQ 2
5. MASH Implementation Information

For more information, please contact

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