

## Interim Acceptance for Safety Barrier Product

**Product:** SoftStop™ W- Beam End Terminal System

**Safety Barrier - Permanent**

**Expiry Date:** 30 June 2020

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The SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system has FHWA acceptance as a MASH TL-3 tested end terminal for permanent W-beam road safety barrier systems (refer FHWA Funding Eligibility letter CC-115). The core mechanism for dissipation of end impact energy is through anchorage and extrusion of the W-Beam element.

The SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system has been evaluated in accordance with the Test Level 3 criteria presented in AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) under the following test conditions:

- 1100kg small car impacting at angles between 0° and 15° and a nominal speed of 100kph
- 2,270kg pick-up truck impacting at angles between 0° and 25° and a nominal speed of 100kph

This interim acceptance, pending update of the NZ Transport Agency's M23 Specification for Road Safety Barrier Systems, is to confirm the acceptance by the NZ Transport Agency of the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system for use on the state highway network in new installations or as a retrofit upgrade of existing installations.

### Product Identification



SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal (US photo)



SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal (Rear View)

### Conditions of Use

The SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system must be installed and maintained in accordance with the product installation/maintenance manual and relevant NZ Transport Agency specifications.

NZ Transport Agency specifications and standards shall prevail where there is discrepancy between the product manual(s) and the NZ Transport Agency specifications and standards.

Installers must ensure that they are familiar with relevant conditions, requirements and limitations of the system, particularly with regard to the appropriate site grading, length of need, minimum installation length and test deflection. Vehicle impacts that vary from the MASH impact conditions may result in significantly different results than those experienced in testing.

Where used to retrofit a damaged W-Beam end terminal of other manufacture, care must be taken to ensure the correct number of timber posts and guardrail lengths are removed and replaced with the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system being installed.

On State highway projects, the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system must be installed as a 4-panel terminal, 15.48m in length at an installation height of 790mm (31").

Delineation of terminal is to be in accordance with TCD/MoTSaM requirements.

A copy of this Interim Acceptance must be appended to the Installation Manual for the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system.

### **Expiry of Acceptance**

This acceptance expires on 30 June 2020 and replaces any previous acceptance.

New installations of the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system must not be deployed on the State highway network after the expiry date of this interim acceptance unless a further period of acceptance is granted or the product has been formally included in the NZ Transport Agency M23 Specification for Road Safety Barrier Systems, in which case the M23 specification would replace this interim acceptance.

Should the NZ Transport Agency discover that the qualification testing was flawed, that in-service performance reveals unacceptable safety problems, or that the system being marketed differs significantly from that which was crash tested, it reserves the right, at any time, to modify or revoke its acceptance of the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system.

We note that the SoftStop™ W-Beam End Terminal system has not been submitted to the Austroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel (ASBAP) for acceptance. The Transport Agency (as an Austroads member) will review the panel findings if/when released and advise any amendments to be made to the current interim acceptance.

**Authorised by the National Traffic & Safety Manager**