



2/9/21

An open letter to all in the highway safety hardware and roadside design community.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is continuing to update its process for issuing Federal-aid eligibility letters for roadside safety hardware systems. The FHWA’s Federal-aid eligibility letters are provided as a service to the States and are not a requirement for roadside safety hardware to be eligible for Federal-aid reimbursement. This letter serves to notify you that FHWA is providing clarification on the process to obtain an eligibility letter for cable barrier systems.

Over the past several months, FHWA has received questions regarding required tests for cable barrier systems to receive an eligibility letter. In 2016, AASHTO published the 2nd edition of the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) to replace MASH 1st Edition (2009). The 2nd Edition of MASH added test matrices for cable barriers to be installed on slopes. The FHWA Office of Safety made modifications to its eligibility letter website to be consistent with the 2nd Edition of MASH. The modifications necessitated updating eligibility letters issued in accordance with the 1st edition of MASH. The updates of the eligibility letters consisted of adding a phrase to indicate the as-tested condition (such as slope, offset and terrain) after the original description of the device. Additionally, the language of the letters was updated to be consistent with the FHWA Office of Safety’s current policies. The table below shows the eligibility letters issued for cable barrier systems and the corresponding tests run for each system.

Table 1: Cable Barrier Systems Tested to Date

Original Letter	New or Updated Letter	Name of System	Manufacturer	Tests Run
B-354	Not applicable since test condition is included in the name of the system.	CSP Pacific Sentryline-M, Level Terrain	CSP Pacific	4-10, 4-11 and 4-12
B-340	Not applicable since test condition is included in the name of the system.	Gibraltar Global TL-3 Cable Barrier System, 4H:1V Slope	Gibraltar Global LLC	3-10, 3-11, 3-13, 3-14, 3-16, 3-17, and 3-18
B-316	B-316A	Gibraltar Global TL-4 Cable Barrier System, Level Terrain	Gibraltar Global LLC	4-10, 4-11, and 4-12
B-276	B-276A	Safence 3RSC-16 Blue System 3 Cable Driven Post System, 2H:1V Slope, 200 mm Offset	Safence, Inc.	3-10 and 3-11
B-245	B-245A	Brifren Wire Rope Safety Fence O-Post, MASH, Level Terrain	Hill & Smith Ltd	3-10 and 3-11

B-232	B-232B	CASS S3 on 4H:1V Slopes, 30 foot-wide median on backslope 11 feet from bottom of median and 26 feet from slope break point	Trinity Highway Products, LLC	3-10 and 3-11
B-232A	B-232C	CASS S3 MASH TL-4 on Level Terrain	Trinity Highway Products, LLC	4-10, 4-11, and 4-12
B-88F	B-88G	Safence in 1:4 Sloped Medians, 26 foot-wide median on front slope with 4-foot offset from slope break point	Safence, Inc.	3-10 and 3-11

Effective as of the date of publication of the 2nd Edition of MASH, all recommended tests for cable barriers as indicated in the document are required to be run in accordance with the as-designed conditions to which it will be implemented. Consistent with current practice, FHWA will continue to issue eligibility letters for roadside safety hardware that complies with the recommended tests found in the most up-to-date edition of MASH. Information regarding eligibility letters can be found at:

https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/countermeasures/reduce_crash_severity/acceptprocess/

The FHWA will continue to provide for Federal-aid reimbursement for all cable barrier systems shown in Table 1.

The contents of this open letter do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the States or the public in any way. This open letter is intended only to provide clarity to the States and the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Please contact Aimee Zhang, FHWA Office of Safety, with questions or comments at Aimee.Zhang@dot.gov

Sincerely yours,



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