

New Breakaway Regulations For Signposts: NOW is the time to begin using 'breakaway' supports for signs, to replace those that are non-conforming.

Here's why: Breakaway Sign Supports are Required

Rigid objects close to a roadway can become deadly hazards when struck by a vehicle that strays off the pavement. Supports for road signs, frequently placed close to the roadway, are hazards if they are not designed, manufactured, and constructed to break away upon impact. Even relatively small and innocent looking road sign supports can be deadly if they are not designed to break away. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is the national standard used for all roads open to public travel, states that roadside sign supports in the clear zone **shall be breakaway, yielding, or shielded**. MUTCD Section 2A-19: "... Ground-mounted sign supports shall be breakaway, yielding, or shielded with a longitudinal barrier or crash cushion if within the clear zone." This requirement applies to all roads, whether publicly or privately owned. Although state highway agencies are generally in compliance already, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is concerned that many local agencies may not be aware of this requirement.

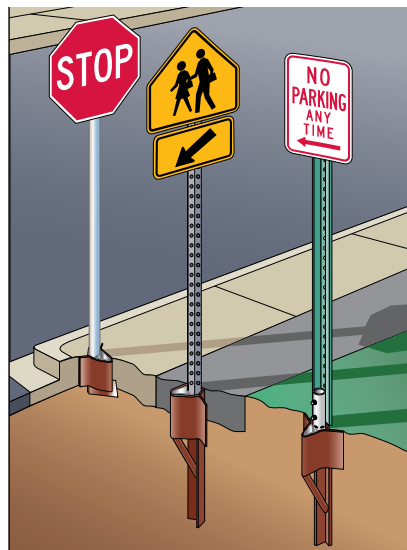
MUTCD: All non-breakaway sign supports Shall be replaced by January 2013

The FHWA realizes that no agency can inventory, inspect, design, and replace non-breakaway sign supports overnight. The easiest way to accomplish this is to begin using breakaway supports when installing new signs or replacing damaged supports. All non-breakaway sign supports within the clear zone of roads posted at 50 mph or greater shall be replaced by January 2013. Thus you can save yourself time and money by using compliant supports NOW for new installations, as well as when replacing existing, damaged sign post supports.

Which Sign Supports are Breakaway?

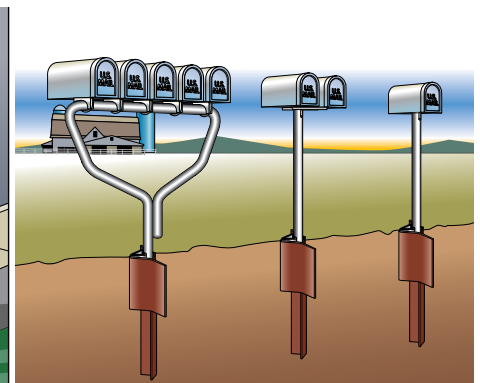
FHWA policy requires that all highway appurtenances, including sign supports, used on the National Highway System meet performance criteria contained in the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350, Recommended Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Features. ALL of TAPCO's V-Loc Sign Sockets for round, square and u-channel posts are NCHRP350-approved Breakaway Supports.

V-Locs are classified as Yielding Supports, in that the locking Wedge deforms upon vehicle impact to allow the post to yield and release, thus minimizing the vehicle's change in momentum, critical to crash-worthiness. V-Loc sockets also mount flush to the ground, minimizing the chance of inducing vehicle roll-overs and the risk of unwanted, costly liability.



Are V-Loc Sockets Reusable?

V-Loc Sockets are reusable after knockdowns. Simply put a new post in the socket and drive in a new wedge. Cut down on your replacement costs and exposure of your workforce to traffic.



What about Mailbox Supports?

ALL of TAPCO's V-Loc Sockets and Supports for Single, Double and Multiple Mailboxes are NCHRP350-approved Breakaway Supports. Several States have already specified them for their roadways. Contact TAPCO for additional information on V-Loc Mailbox Supports.

For more information on safer sign supports: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/safersigns.htm

For more information on V-Loc Sign and Mailbox Support Systems visit www.tapconet.com/vloc.html

Please contact TAPCO today to ensure that your sign and mailbox posts will conform to FHWA regulations.

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