

# Design Standards Letter

**Letter Number: G-1966-00**

**Letter Date: 04/25/1966**

**Effective Date: 04/25/1966**

**Section/Plan No.: None**

**Subject: Highway Signing Standard Drawings Design Manual Revision**

## Body

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ALL DISTRICT ENGINEERS

The use of break-away sign posts at hazardous locations such as in gore points and traffic islands is being studied. It is apparent that sign post footings should be positioned with the tops close to the ground line where break-away posts are used. It has been noted that for some reason the six-inch adjustment which has been provided in the elevation of the top of the concrete footings has been exceeded in a number of installations. This makes it difficult or impossible to modify existing posts to provide the break-away feature, besides being unsightly. It has been decided to eliminate any adjustment in the elevation of the footing and to provide a compensating adjustment in the lengths of posts.

Standard Drawings 72.03, Sheets 1 through 5 of 6 are being revised accordingly. The new design will be effective with the June 30, 1966 Letting. Preliminary copies of these sheets are being transmitted herewith so that plans for that letting and later lettings may be designed at District level. Plans already submitted will be revised in this office. It is uncertain as to when plans for breakaway posts will be ready for use, but it will not be difficult to substitute them for the new design posts.

The only allowable adjustment at the top of the footings is in the "T" dimension, which is intended only for leveling purposes. It will be noted that the three-inch minimum projection of the footing above the slope on the high side has been eliminated and that the top center of the footing will now be at the elevation of the slope. The reinforcing steel for footings tabulated on Sheet One for minimum depths has been revised for the three-inch reduction in elevation. The minimum footing depths have not changed, but the additional length for slope has been halved, and the new additional depth for the various diameters of footing are tabulated. All footing depths are to be to the nearest three inches.

To compensate for the fixed elevation of the footing, a vertical design clearance six inches greater than the minimum is now shown on Sheet Two. This will permit a downward adjustment of signs to the minimum charted "V" dimension (top of sign to top of post) which amounts to three inches for a sign height of two feet, four inches for two feet six

inches, and six inches for signs of three foot height or more.

Although not so indicated on the standard drawings, structural type signs of less than 30 square foot area and specifically exit signs in gore points are mounted on 4" x 6" x 8.5# WF posts and a six-inch adjustment is to be provided in the lengths.

Several preliminary copies of a revised figure 15.39 of the Design Manual, showing concrete quantities for the new post design, are enclosed.

The revised design will no alleviate the requirements of Section 72.4.2.3 of the special provisions that posts shall not be ordered until the lengths have been checked in the field by the engineer, after rough grading has been completed.

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Surveys and Plans