



Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450


JOSÉ ABREU
SECRETARY

February 24, 2005

This Memo Has Expired

DCE MEMORANDUM NO.: 05-05
(FHWA Approved: 2/22/05)

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: Ananth Prasad, Director, Office of Construction 

COPIES: William Nickas, Dave Sadler, Steve Plotkin, Jeff Pouliotte, State Materials Office, District Structures Engineers, Don Davis

**SUBJECT: INTERPRETATION OF SPECIFICATION 415-5.13.2
REGARDING THE PROHIBITION FOR THE USE OF METAL
CHAIRS AND BOLSTERS IN EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE
ENVIRONMENTS**

The following is to clarify the provision in Specification 415-5.13.2 (scheduled to become effective for projects let in July 2005), which states: "do not use metal chairs and bolsters for substructures in extremely aggressive environments".

The intent of this specification change is to eliminate metal in the surrounding concrete cover for concrete substructures in extremely aggressive environments. The elimination of metal chairs and bolsters in the concrete cover for substructures in extremely aggressive environments will increase the life of the bridge by slowing the time before the inception of concrete corrosion. No improvement in corrosion resistance will be realized by eliminating the use of metal chairs and bolsters between the reinforcing steel mats.

Therefore, Specification 415-5.13.2 should be interpreted to allow the use of metal chairs and bolsters between layers of reinforcing steel for substructures in extremely aggressive environments.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Pouliotte at suncom 994-4146.

AP/pw