



City of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Public Service Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Designers and Builders of Wheelchair Ramps

FROM: Randall J. Bowman, P.E.
City Engineer/Assistant Administrator *RJB*

SUBJECT: Revised Detectable Warnings Requirements for Wheelchair Ramps

DATE: March 1, 2004

The City has revised its Policy on Detectable Warning Surfaces and Supplemental Specification 1551- Detectable Warnings. The newly revised documents are available for viewing and download at the Transportation Division website located at www.cmhdot.com. All documents become effective March 1, 2004.

Changes and additions to both documents are necessary to conform with new product approval procedures being implemented, and to allow the City more control and flexibility in approving the products and installation methods used for detectable warning surfaces.

Major changes in this revision include:

- **Removed the supplier from the five-year warranty requirement.** On City projects, the Contractor is responsible for warranties, not the supplier. In the case of private developments, the Developer is responsible in lieu of the Contractor.
- **Clarified product-type descriptions.** Some customers have expressed confusion over the language in the previous version of Supplemental Specification 1551.
- **Removed approval of Type "A" products for retrofit applications.** Our experience and analysis has demonstrated that to properly install brick-type pavers, it is necessary to remove most of the ramp, which has not proven economically feasible.
- **Introduced a new product-type. Type "E" – Pre-Manufactured, Wet-Set Products** is approved only for new ramp installations. Previously, products included in this group were included with "Type "A" – Dimensional Pavers"
- **Revised the application notes for Type "A" – Pre-Cast, Manufactured Clay and Concrete Pavers.** The previous language was improved to better define acceptance criteria and correct ambiguities.

RJB/mtf/smw

cc: Pam Clawson, Administrator
Henry Guzmán, Public Service Director

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