

February 1, 2002

HSA-10/B-74B

**Mr. Richard Moore**  
**Technical Sales**  
**Valley Rubber, L.L.C.**  
**3899 Highway 31 North**  
**Falkville, Alabama 35622**

**Dear Mr. Moore:**

**In your January 23 letter to Mr. Richard Powers of my staff you requested acceptance of a new version of your recycled rubber blockout for w-beam guardrail that was formally accepted by Mr. Frederick G. Wright's letter to you dated November 28, 2000. Whereas the original acceptance was for a rectangular block intended for use with a steel post, the new design is intended for use with 180-mm (7-inch) diameter round wood posts.**

**Your new block is essentially rectangular with a front face of 144 mm (5.7 in), a depth of 200 mm (7.9 in), and a back face having a concave surface with a radius of 89 mm (3.5 in). The overall length of the block remains at 356 mm (14 in). The sidewalls are 27-mm (1.1-in) thick, the front wall is 17-mm (0.7-in) thick, and the back wall is 19-mm (0.75-in) thick. Assuming the material composition remains the same as in the rectangular blocks that were originally tested and accepted, the new block may also be considered acceptable for use with 180-mm (7-inch) diameter round wood posts supporting w-beam guardrail.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**(original signed by Michael L. Halladay)**

**Michael L. Halladay**  
**Acting Project Manager, Safety**