



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

November 30, 2004

In Reply Refer To: HSA-10/B-131

Mr. Owen S. Denman, P.E.  
President  
Barrier Systems, Incorporated  
180 River Road  
Rio Vista, California 94571-1208

Dear Mr. Denman:

In your November 9 letter, you requested formal Federal Highway Administration review and acceptance of a proprietary temporary steel barrier named the BarrierGuard 800. To support this request, you also sent copies of an October test report entitled "NCHRP Report 350 Crash Test Report: Highway Care Ltd. and Laura Metaal Eygelshoven, BV BarrierGuard 800", compiled and prepared by Safe Technologies, Inc. and videotapes of the crash tests that were conducted on the barrier.

The BarrierGuard 800 is a longitudinal barrier constructed from 5-mm thick A36 galvanized steel panels assembled in 12-meter segments. Each segment is 800-mm high with a base width of 540 mm and a top width of 230 mm. As shown in Enclosure 1, the BarrierGuard 800 has a sloped face with a "step" 255 mm above the ground. Each segment weighs approximately 1080 kg. The system is anchored at each end and at a point approximately 6 m in from each end with a total of 16 24-mm diameter by 460-mm long threaded steel rods (4 rods at each anchor location) in a minimum of 75-mm of asphaltic concrete over at least 200-mm of compacted dense graded aggregate. Alternative designs certified by the manufacturer to provide anchorage equal to or better than the tested design may also be used.

The BarrierGuard 800 has been tested and approved under the European EN 1317 testing and evaluation criteria up to test level H2. Tests were successfully conducted at the BASt facility in Germany and the LIER facility in France with cars weighing 900 kg and 1500 kg. These tests may be considered equivalent to National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350 test 3-10. Safe Technologies, Inc. constructed a 72-m long test installation that was impacted by a 2000-kg pickup truck at 25 degrees and 100.5 km/h. The impact point was approximately 15 m upstream from the anchored end section, thus effectively replicating a transition test (NCHRP Report 350 test 3-21). The vehicle was contained and redirected. Dynamic deflection was reported to be 1 m. Test results met all appropriate evaluation criteria as noted in Enclosure 2.



In addition to the passenger vehicle tests noted above, the BarrierGuard 800 was tested with a 13000-kg intercity bus impacting at 70 km/h and 20 degrees and a 7500-kg single unit truck at 50 km/h and at a 45 degree angle. You noted that the impact severity in the two latter crashes exceeded that required by the NCHRP Report 350 TL-4 single unit truck by factors of nearly 2 and 3, respectively. Staff members have reviewed the crash videos and test data for these tests and recommended that together, they be considered equivalent to the current TL-4 test with the 8000-kg single unit truck impacting at 80 km/h and 15 degrees. However, it is not my intention to set any precedent by accepting the European tests in lieu of Report 350 tests and any future requests for “equivalent” tests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Based on the information you submitted, I agree the BarrierGuard 800, as tested, meets NCHRP Report 350 evaluation criteria and may be used on the National Highway System (NHS) as a test level 4 temporary barrier. Because NCHRP Report 350 test 3-11 was not conducted, the design deflection for the BarrierGuard anchored only at the ends will exceed the 1-m distance seen in test 3-21. Based on a review of the deflections noted in BASt test 2001 7S 08/JF, a design deflection of approximately 1.5 m appears reasonable. The approach ends of the system will, of course, need to be shielded if located within the design clear zone on projects on the NHS.

Since the BarrierGuard 800 is a steel product and is proprietary, the provisions of Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations Sections 635.410 and 635.411 are applicable. Note that the “Buy America” provisions apply only to steel products that are permanently incorporated into highway projects, not to temporary barriers used only during construction or maintenance operations.

Sincerely yours,

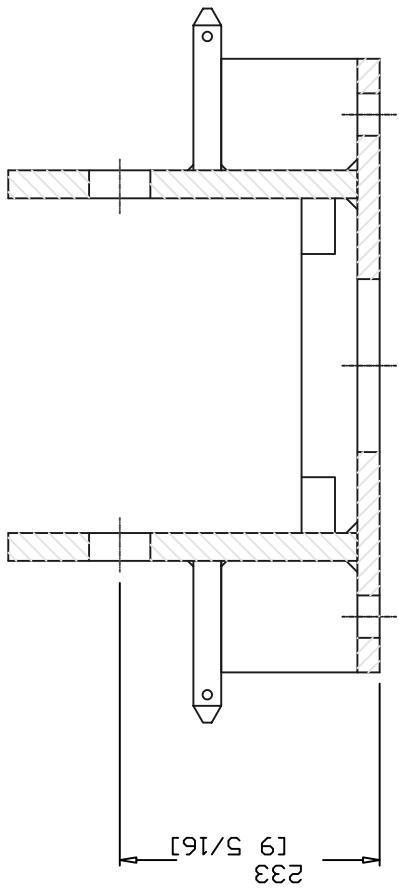
*/Original Signed by/*

John R. Baxter, P.E.  
Director, Office of Safety Design  
Office of Safety

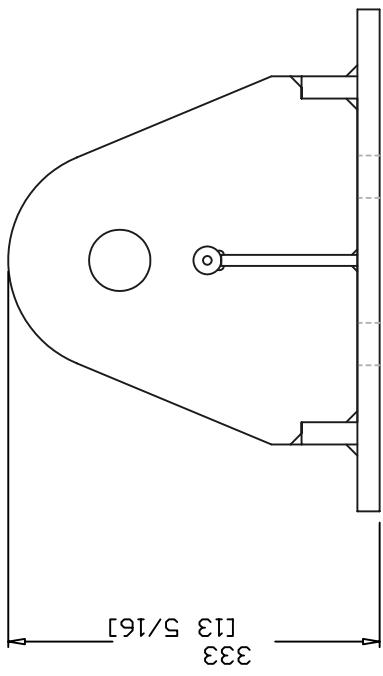
2 Enclosures





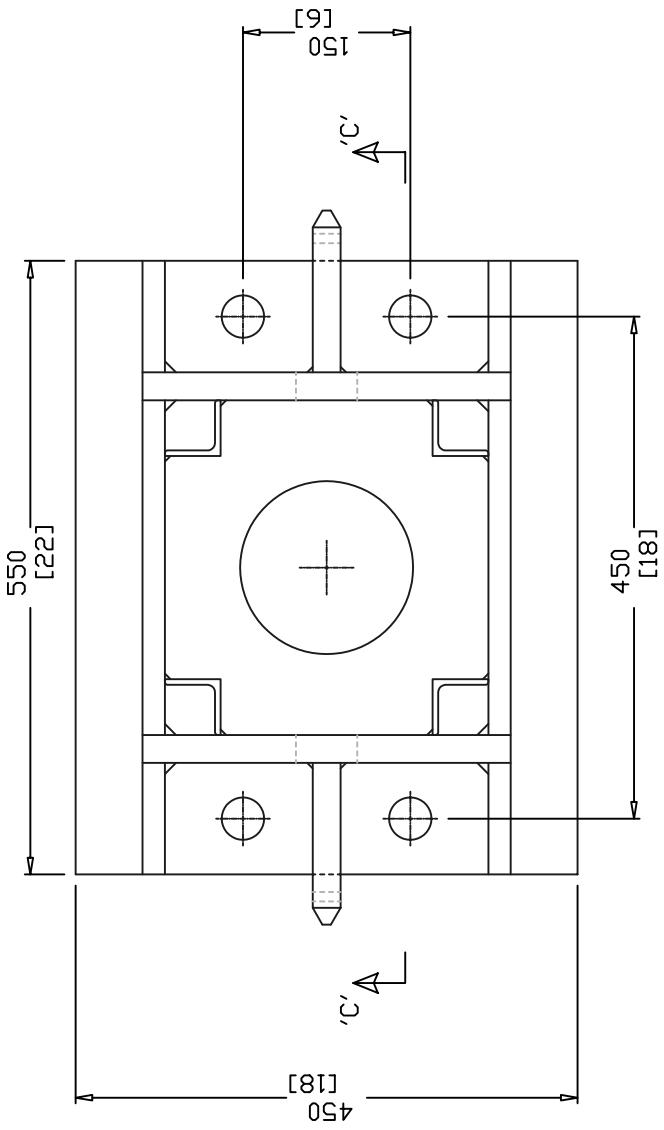


SECTION 'C-C'



NOTES:

- 1.) ALL STEEL COMPONENTS ARE ASTM A36.
- 2.) HOT DIPPED GALVANIZED PER ASTM A-123.
- 3.) ENGLISH STANDARD UNITS (INCHES) IN BRACKETS.



PROJECT		Pos.	Aantal	Bewerking	Naar teken	Opmerking	Schaal
		No.	Stuk	DIN 8570-C Harsvorm DIN 6598 Branden	Bl. beh. teh. BGE 1/5		
		Gestek. I		DIN 2310-1/B Bewerking			
		Do. t/m					
		Gedraai					

Laura Metal	EYGE SHOVEN BV	Tek. No.
		D03-18738/1
Wijzigingen	CAD-CAM	Vervangen door
Do. t/m	Wijziging C	Do. t/m
Periode		Periode

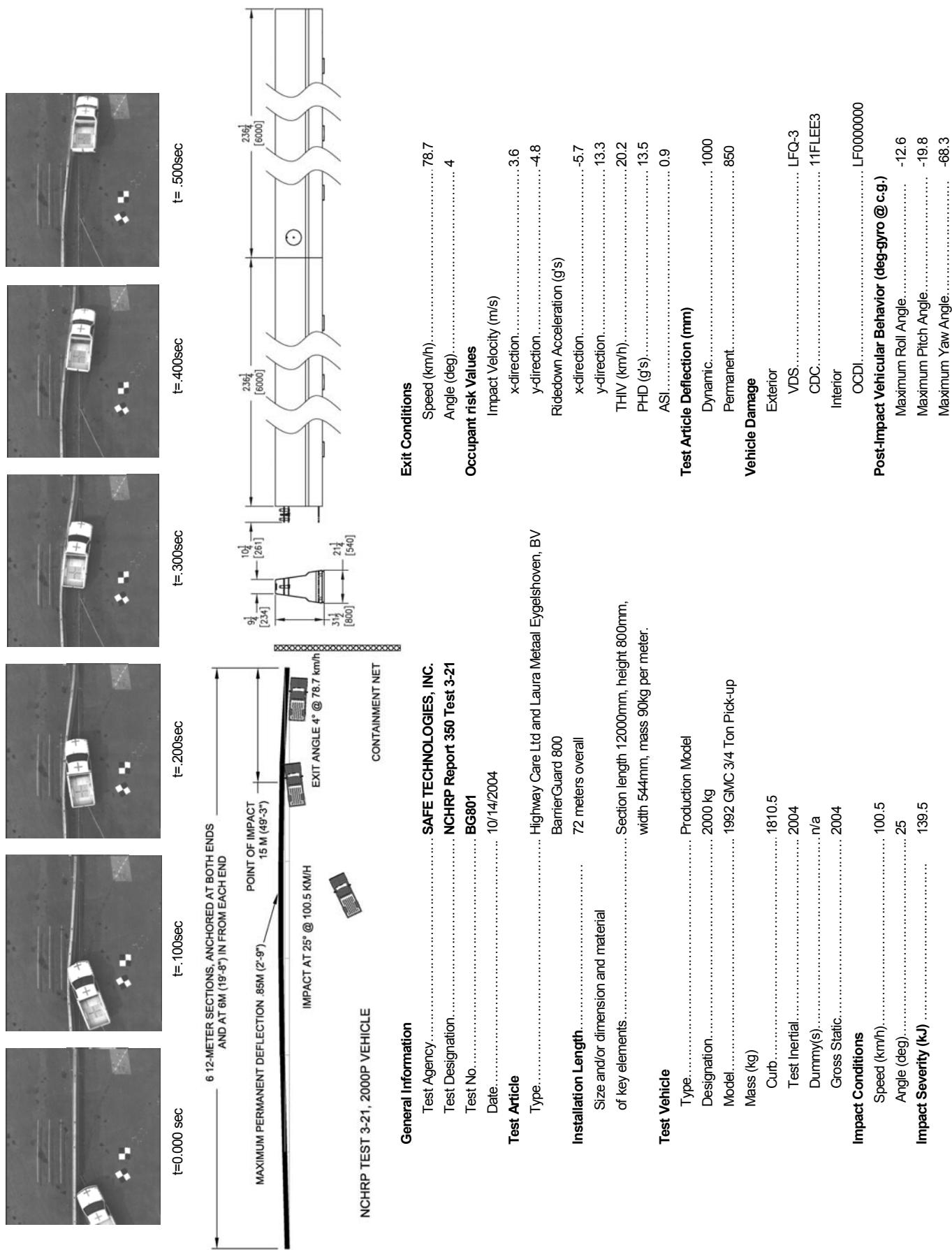


Figure 1. Summary of Results-Test #BG801