

September 1, 1998

Refer to: HNG-14

Mr. Ronald F. Beyer
Product Manager
Renco Highway Control Products
Pflugerville, Texas 78691-0730

Dear Mr. Beyer:

In your August 7 letter to me as Chief of the Federal Highway Administration's Federal-Aid & Design Division, you requested acceptance of the RENCO Ren-Gard 815 Truck Mounted Attenuator (TMA) as an NCHRP Report 350 test level 2 (TL-2) device. To support this request, you sent a copy of a Texas Transportation Institute report dated July 1998 and entitled "Test Level 2 Evaluation of the RENCO Ren-Gard 815 Truck Mounted Attenuator" and a video tape of the two tests that were run.

The Ren-Gard 815 TMA is essentially the same device tested earlier under NCHRP Report 230 guidelines. It consists of a 2095-mm long by 2300-mm wide by 580-mm high crash pad containing honeycomb cardboard sections inside an aluminum shell. This pad is connected to support frame which is, in turn, mounted to the frame of the support vehicle. The total weight of the unit is 463 kg. When in use, the Ren-Gard unit is positioned 330 mm above the roadway surface. Enclosure 1 is a schematic drawing of the unit.

NCHRP Report 350 tests 2-50 and 2-51 were successfully conducted, using a 1981 Ford F600 dump truck ballasted to 8649 kg as the support vehicle. The truck was parked against a rigid wall for test 2-50 and on dry PCC pavement in second gear with its emergency brake engaged for test 2-51. Summary results of tests 2-50 and 2-51 are shown in Enclosure 2. Supplementary tests 2-52 (head-on, offset) and 2-53 (10 degree angle, offset) were not run, but we note that a 15 degree angle test with a full-sized sedan was successfully run under your Report 230 test series.

Based on our review of the information you provided, we consider the Ren-Gard 815 TMA to be acceptable as a TL-2 attenuator for use on the National Highway System (NHS). Because TMA's are typically selected by a contractor for temporary use in work zones, the Ren-Gard may be exempt from the requirements that normally pertain to the use of proprietary products. However, if a proprietary product is specified by a highway agency for use on a Federal-aid highway project, except exempt non-NHS projects, the requirements of 23 CFR 635.411 must be met. A copy of this section of the Code of Federal Regulations is attached for your ready reference as Enclosure 3.

Sincerely yours,

(original signed by Dwight A. Horne)

Dwight A. Horne
Chief, Federal-Aid and Design Division

3 Enclosures
Acceptance letter CC-20A