



Construction Policy Bulletin

CPB 09-10 Removing Traffic Stripes and Pavement Markings

References: *Standard Specifications*

Section 15-1.02, "Preservation of Property"
Section 15-2.02B, "Traffic Stripes and Pavement Markings"
Section 5-1.116, "Differing Site Conditions"
Section 4-103D, "Extra Work"
Section 4-1503B, "Removing Traffic Stripes and Pavement Markings"

Construction Manual

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Approved: 
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Chief
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Background

Section 15-2.02B, "Traffic Stripes and Pavement Markings," of the *Standard Specifications* requires that the contractor remove traffic stripes and pavement markings by any method that does not materially damage the existing pavement. The contractor must repair at no cost any damage to the pavement and surfacing that results from removing traffic stripes and pavement markings, according to Section 15-1.02, "Preservation of Property," of the *Standard Specifications*.

In the past, removal of existing traffic stripes and pavement markings was not always required before placement of new pavement surfacing. These latent stripes and markings become exposed as the contractors remove pavement by grinding or during cold planing of the existing surface.

Recently contractors have reported that they have been held responsible for removal of latent traffic stripes and pavement markings and associated damages to the surfacing caused by the removal below the existing surface. Contractors believe that they should be compensated for removal of the latent stripes and markings and not held liable for damages associated with their removal.

This Construction Policy Bulletin is an interim guideline for resident engineers until the Caltrans *Construction Manual* can be updated.

Existing Procedure

There is no existing procedure.

New Procedure

If pavement grinding exposes latent traffic stripes or pavement markings beneath the removed existing surfacing, Caltrans will consider those latent traffic stripes or pavement markings a differing site condition. Provisions of Section 5-1.116, "Differing Site Conditions," of the *Standard Specifications* will apply when latent traffic stripe and pavement markings are encountered at the project site.

When the contractor encounters the latent traffic stripes or pavement markings Caltrans will pay all work—including the removal of the latent stripes and markings and repair of the pavement damaged by their removal—as extra work, in conformance with Section 4-103D, "Extra Work," of the *Standard Specifications*.

If the removal of latent traffic stripes and pavement markings causes depressions in the existing pavement and the pavement will not receive an overlay as part of the project, repair the depressions and compensate the contractor in conformance with Section 4-103D, "Extra Work," of the *Standard Specifications*.

If the removal of latent stripes and markings causes depressions in the existing pavement and the pavement will be receiving an overlay, the damage from the removal may be repaired by placing the overlay. When the depressions are greater than 0.05 foot, fill them before the overlay, and compensate the contractor in conformance with Section 4-103D, "Extra Work," of the *Standard Specifications*. When the depressions are filled with overlay material during its placement, pay the additional material used at contract unit price for the overlay material.

Resident engineers must write a contract change order when the contractor encounters the latent traffic stripes or pavement markings in the field. The contract change order should refer to Section 5-1.116, "Differing Site Conditions," of the *Standard Specifications* and detail the contractor's compensation both for removing the latent traffic stripes and pavement markings and for repairing damage to the existing pavement damage.

If you have questions regarding traffic stripe and pavement marking removal, please contact Ebi Fini at (916) 227-5396 or ebi_fini@dot.ca.gov.