

Construction Memo No. 5-02

MEMO TO: Chief District Engineer
TEBM's for Construction
District Construction Engineers
Resident Engineers
Active Consultant Engineers

FROM: Dexter Newman, P. E. Director
Division of Construction

DATE: June 5, 2002

SUBJECT: Installation of Shear Connectors
Structural Steel Bridge Beams

The most recent version of OSHA's Steel Erection Standards for Construction (effective date January 18, 2002) contains a provision that prohibits installation of shear connectors on structural members before they are erected. As to be expected, this has caused great concern and confusion among bridge contractors in Kentucky since it has been accepted practice to install shear connectors in the fabrication shop. OSHA has provided relief to current projects which may already be under fabrication. The new provision will not apply to projects with a contract date before January 18, 2001 or to projects where steel erection began on or before September 15, 2001. OSHA has also provided limited relief to all bridge projects that require conventional fall protection. For these projects, the presence of shear connectors on members prior to and during erection would be considered a "de minimis" violation and no citation should be issued.

Please be advised that this memo simply presents a brief summary of the OSHA position on the installation of shear connectors. Individual contractors should become familiar with OSHA guidelines and determine for themselves how they apply to their respective operations as the ensurance of worker safety is a project specific issue.

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