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TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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Jim Gray
SECRETARY

CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM
MAINTENANCE MEMORANDUM
MATERIALS MEMORANDUM

CM 25-03

TO: Chief District Engineers
Project Delivery and Preservation Branch Managers
Section Engineers
Active CEI Consultants

CC: KY Association of Highway Contractors
KYTC Prequalified Guardrail Contractors
Guardrail Manufacturers on KYTC's List of Approved Materials

FROM: Matthew P. Simpson, P.E.
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Director
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DATE: July 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Guardrail and Guardrail Components Manufactured in Accordance with AASHTO M180

The purpose of this memo is to address the concerns pertaining to the latest edition of AASHTO M180 and to notify all stakeholders of KYTC's implementation plan.

According to the KYTC Standard Specifications, Section 814: Manufacturers shall conform to AASHTO M180 for beams, terminal sections and accessories including the galvanization of the beams. In addition, Section 106.02 states "whenever reference is made to the standard of AASHTO, ASTM, Federal Specifications or standards promulgated by other recognized societies or organizations, the current specification at the date of the bid letting is applicable."

This memorandum allows the use of previous versions of AASHTO M180 other than the latest published edition for the reasons stated below.

The latest AASHTO M180 revision brings significant alterations to the guardrail manufacturing process. Effective immediately, all KYTC construction projects will allow guardrail and components manufactured in accordance with AASHTO M180-18 on jobsites for construction of guardrail per Section 719 of the KYTC Standard Specifications. Materials manufactured in accordance with these AASHTO specifications will be permitted for use on all contracts prior to and including the December 2029 letting. This staggered implementation will allow the use of existing supply and stockpiles and allow manufacturers to adapt their business strategies to meet the new AASHTO manufacturing requirements.

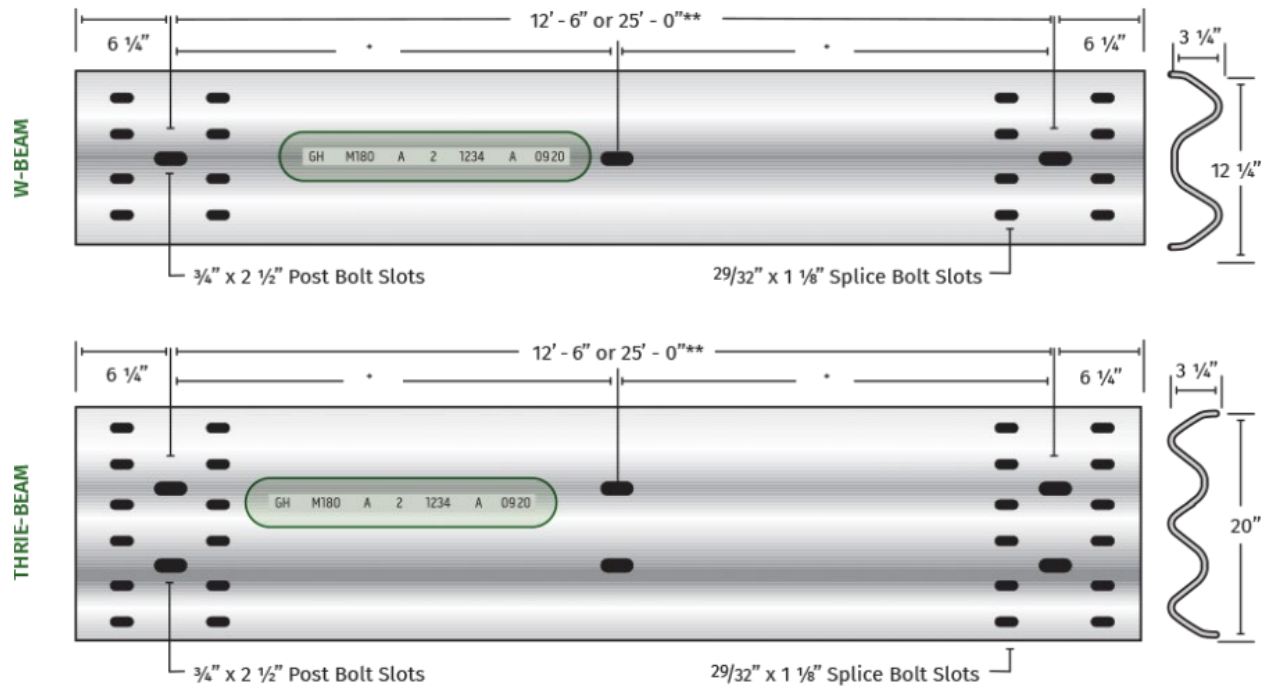
As of the date of this memo, none of the guardrail manufacturers currently comply with AASHTO M180-23. During this transition period, a manufacturer will not be removed from KYTC's List of Approved Materials for not complying with AASHTO M180-23.

All construction personnel are highly encouraged to familiarize themselves with guardrail certifications and should review the certifications and determine what type of railing is being delivered and installed onsite. All certifications should clearly indicate which AASHTO M180 publication it complies with. All guardrail onsite should have a physical stamp that displays "M180" as shown in the attached photos.

If you have questions, please contact the Division of Construction at 502-564-4780.

MPS

Attachments



* Various post-hole spacing available ** 9' 4 1/2" and 15' 7 1/2" MGS length panels available

*Photo courtesy of Gregory Corporation