

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To Office Bridges and Structures

Date October 1, 2008

Attention All Employees

Ref No. 521.1

From Gary Novey

Office Bridges and Structures

Subject Methods Memo 206 (Revision for E463/M463)

The note for E463/M463 has been revised as shown to provide a better understanding of what should be sealed on barrier rails that are repaired.

E463/M463: Concrete sealer, barrier rail

THE TOP AND INTERIOR FACES OF THE EXISTING CONCRETE RAILING ARE TO BE CLEANED AND SEALED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD SPECIFICATION 2403.21 PART D. IF NEW SECTIONS OF RAIL ARE CONSTRUCTED, THE NEW SECTIONS SHALL NOT BE SEALED. ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CLEANING AND SEALING OF THE CONCRETE RAILS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE UNIT PRICE BID ITEM " ?? ".

If repair work is being done on a bridge, the field has requested that we apply concrete sealer to the traffic face and top of the existing concrete barrier rails. This should apply when overlays are being applied or when rail end sections are being updated on the structures. Do not seal rails unless other repairs require traffic control for both sides of the bridge.

New concrete barrier rails shall not be sealed. There is concern that the sealant prevents proper curing of the concrete and therefore should not be applied to new concrete surfaces.

The cost of the sealing should be made incidental to a contract item. Examples of bid items in which it could be included are: "Concrete Repair", "Repair Beam Ends", "Bridge Floor Overlay" or "Structural Concrete".

One issue to consider before adding the sealing work to the plans is the condition of the existing barrier rail. If the barrier has severe deterioration, consider whether repairs need to be made first before sealing, or if the sealing is worth the cost.

If you have any question please check with me.

GAN/dgb/bj