

Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware

Second Edition



2016

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2016

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PREFACE

The use of effective roadside safety features provides a reasonable level of safety for the traveling public. New systems are continually emerging to address safety problems. Devices and practices improve in response to an increased understanding of safety performance, a changing vehicle fleet, the emergence of new materials, and other factors.

This second edition of the *Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware* (MASH) is the latest in a long series of crash testing guidance documents dating back to 1962. This update incorporates many changes from the previous edition. Some of the more significant changes include:

- A new matrix for cable barrier testing on slopes
- Modifications to several test vehicle dimensions
- Updated test documentation requirements

This document's purpose is to encourage consistency in crash testing and evaluation. Full-scale crash testing has been and will continue to be the most common method of evaluating the impact performance of safety hardware. Consistency in crash testing and evaluation benefits states, testing facilities, manufacturers, and the public.

Note that MASH addresses only the crash testing of roadside safety features. It does not contain installation or maintenance guidance, nor does it supersede any of the guidelines found in the AASHTO *Roadside Design Guide*.

Implementation of this Manual by roadway agencies is outlined in an AASHTO/FHWA Joint Implementation Agreement. A copy of the agreement is available through the AASHTO Bookstore at: https://bookstore.transportation.org/item_details.aspx?ID=2707.

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