

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF SAFETY PROGRAMS
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April 13, 2023

Paul Kruse
Valtir, LLC
3617 Cincinnati Avenue
Rocklin, CA 95765

Dear Mr. Kruse:

The SoftStop Guardrail Terminal (SoftStop) is approved for use on California State highways at Test Level 3 (TL-3) and TL-2. This approval was recommended by the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Highway Safety Features New Products Committee (HSFNPC), based on information you provided indicating the devices complied with the requirements of the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware 2016 (MASH16). The Federal Highway Administration accepted the Soft-Stop Terminal at TL-3 on September 23, 2013 (HSST/CC-115H) and at TL-2 on May 1, 2013 (HSST/CC-115E).

The SoftStop, TL-2 and TL-3, is designed for 31-inch height guardrail and contains 8-inch or 12-inch blockouts and mid-span rail splices. The first 12-gauge w-beam rail panel has slots in the beginning 81¾ inches. The other 12-gauge rail panels are standard. The terminals can also use 25-foot w-beam rail panels. Posts 1 and 2 are W6x8.5 steel yielding terminal posts, and the remaining posts are standard W6x8.5 sections. The TL-3 terminal length is 50 feet, 9½ inches, and can be flared to an offset of 2 feet using a flare rate of 25:1. The TL-2 length is 38 feet, 3½ inches, and can be flared to an offset of 1 foot using a flare rate of 25:1.

The SoftStop will be included on the Caltrans Authorized Materials List and will be an alternative to other MASH16 compliant guardrail terminals. Reference Installation Manual REV D August 2022 (PN 620237) and Manual REV B August 2022 (PN 626822) and Drawing nos. SS653CA-RA, SS646CA-RA, SS773CA-RA, SS772CA-RA as the approved plan sheet for Caltrans use. If the device, the drawings, or the manual are modified, the change(s) must be resubmitted to Caltrans for review. Any changes to the product must result in a product that still meets MASH16 standards.

Mr. Paul Kruse
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If you have any questions, please contact Yu-Ying Chu, HSFNPC Chair at (916) 639-6136 or by email at <yu-ying.chu@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yue Wang', written in a cursive style.

Yue Wang, Chief
Office of Safety Systems and Devices
Division of Safety Programs

c: Yu-Ying Chu, Chair, Highway Safety Features New Products Committee