Channelizing Devices in Work Zones

All traffic control devices used in work zones are required to meet the requirements of Part 6 of the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD). The MMUTCD contains references to other manuals to be followed by the designer of the Temporary Traffic Control Plan as well as Delivery staff and contractors who implement the plan.

Federal regulations also require that all roadside appurtenances such as channelizing devices and all other work zone hardware be compliant with the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) or National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350: Recommended Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Features.

In addition to use requirements contained in the MMUTCD, the following usage criteria should also be followed when determining channelizing devices usage:

Cones
MDOT does not allow the use of cones smaller than 42 inches for night time operations.

Exception: 18 inch cones are permitted for the protection of uncured pavement markings where no lane closure is used.

Tubular Markers
Use of Tubular Markers should only be considered for use after all other channelizing devices have been ruled out.

May be used when more permanent delineation (attached to the pavement) may be required, where the use of portable devices would not perform over long periods of time. Required to be a minimum of 36 inch in height for all roadways. Required to have a minimum diameter of 2 inch, with larger diameters desirable. Reflective sheeting requirement shall be two, 3 inch wide white bands, placed a maximum of 2 inch from the top with a maximum of 6 inches between the bands.
**42 Inch Channelizing Devices**

Recommended for use in Capital Preventive Maintenance (CPM) Projects that are Chip Seal, Micro-Surface and Crack Seal applications. If cones are specified in the contract, use of the 42 inch channelizing devices may be permitted at the expense of the contractor.

Recommended for use in all pavement marking contracts where lane closures are required to install the pavement markings:
- May be used in lieu of a standard cone for day work.
- May be used for day or night work

May be allowed for any duration of work where the use of a plastic drum would restrict proposed lane widths to less than 11 feet including shy distance.

42 inch channelizing devices are not allowed in the following situations:
- Contractor requests to replace plastic drums with 42 inch channelizing devices unless changes in proposed construction will restrict the lane widths as described above.
- Shoulder closures.
- To delineate Temporary Traffic Signal Trailers, Message Boards or Arrow Boards.
- To delineate roadside materials or equipment.

Lights on 42 inch channelizing devices are not allowed.

**Vertical Panels**

Vertical panels are not allowed for channelization. However, they may be used for roadside safety delineation based on engineering judgment.

**Directional Indicator Barricades**

Prohibited for use.

**Barricades**

Type I and Type II Barricades are not allowed.

**Plastic Drums**

Recommended for use in all work zones applications where there are lane widths of 11 feet or more.

This advisory applies to all maintenance, utility and permit work zones. Please provide this information to consultants in your area.