

# System Operations Advisory

SOA 2011-03

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this advisory should be  
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## Temporary Sign Support Wood Posts

Several recent issues with wood post temporary sign supports have been discovered. The following criteria serve as reminders when reviewing, inspecting, and/or accepting wood post temporary sign supports. Attention is also directed to Special Detail, Ground Driven Sign Supports for Temp Signs, WZD-100-A as well as any contract documents related to temporary sign supports.

1. Saw cuts in temporary wood supports are to be placed as shown on page 8 of 11 in the Special Detail for Ground Driven Sign Supports for Temp Signs, WZD-100-A if utilizing the MDOT sign detail. All other NCHRP 350 and FHWA approved temporary sign design and support details do not require saw cuts unless specifically stated.
2. Saw cuts in existing wood posts are permitted if the saw cuts are located directly behind and in contact with the sign substrate panel and are located between the two bolted wood post sign panel connections. Existing saw cuts on any other side of the temporary wood posts are not permitted. These existing saw cuts are not permitted on single post assemblies and there are to be no saw cuts on single post assemblies per Standard Plan WZD-100-A.
3. Additional saw cuts (repaired, filled, void, or otherwise) in the temporary wood supports not specifically addressed above, not shown on the approved special detail, or not shown in a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350 or Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) approved temporary sign support detail are not to be permitted.
4. Drilled breakaway holes are to be located at the proper location per the special detail. Improperly placed, additional or filled holes are not to be permitted and these posts are to be rejected.
5. Wood post splices are not to be permitted for any wood post sign supports.
6. Temporary wood post sign supports are often recycled and used in several different work zones in one or more construction seasons. Recycled wood posts are required to meet all criteria in the project specifications.

In order to minimize additional worker exposure and mobility impacts, these criteria are to be enforced on projects let during and after the September 2010 letting.

Please provide this information to local agencies and consultants in your area.