
After discussion by the Subcommittee on Traffic Signs and Devices regarding better methods for securing reflector buttons in sign legends, on February 20, 1964 the Research Laboratory wrote to button manufacturers, proposing a specification to provide for improved fastening methods. At that time, no manufacturer was producing to this requirement, and none wished to modify his manufacturing process. Subsequently, when one manufacturer did change his mounting method so that some of these requirements were met, the subject was raised at the December 7, 1964 meeting of the New Materials Committee. The matter was then referred to the Laboratory for further study. Meanwhile, another manufacturer has also changed his button mounting method.

In view of these developments, it is recommended that the following paragraph be adopted as a supplement to Section 7.261 of the Standard Specifications (p. 746 in the 1965 edition), to follow the existing paragraphs under the heading "Type 1":

"Reflector buttons shall be securely mounted in the aluminum frame independent of support from the sign backing material. The mounting for the button shall prevent rotation, permanently securing the button
in the orientation for maximum reflectivity, should the manufacturer of
the reflector button consider the orientation significant. The method
of attaching the button to the frame shall insure that the button does not
drop out or become loose when mounted vertically. The use of tape or
mastic for supporting the reflector button in the frame will not be per-
mitted."

Both the Rupert Manufacturing Company and A.G.A. Division of ESNA Com-
pany can now produce reflector buttons of the "snap-in" type. The first company
provides cast lugs on the reflector button to secure it once it is snapped in. This
type of mount does not prevent rotation of the button in the panel. The second
company secures the button in the frame by forming a small edge flange after the
button is placed in position either by adhesives or heating the button along the edge
to form the flange. The latter method prevents button rotation, but also does not
permit removal of the button and replacement with another since the process of
securing the reflector to the frame can be accomplished only by the manufacturer.

We feel that the suggested specification change, while permitting both types of
mounting methods, is an improvement over the existing specification.

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