

An Open Letter to Industry

Transition to *Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)* guidelines

The purpose of this letter is to advise industry of an important change to the eligibility criteria for product submissions to the Austroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel (the Panel).

Since its introduction in 1999, Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 3845 (the Standard) has utilised the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 350 (NCHRP 350) guidelines as the basis for testing protocols to assess safety barrier related hardware and devices.

Previously submissions to the Panel were based on NCHRP 350 in line with the Standard.

In 2017, Part 1:2015 and Part 2:2017 of the Standard recognised the introduction of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *2009 Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)* guidelines.

In an effort to encourage installation of MASH crash tested devices, and in line with the changes to the Standard, the Panel has updated its product submission criteria.

Effective immediately, all submissions received by the Panel must be in accordance with AASHTO's MASH guidelines or an equivalence rating to MASH in accordance with AS/NZS3845 Parts 1 and 2.

The Panel will transition the current suite of accepted road safety barrier systems and devices within the Australasian market to MASH guidelines in line with the following timeframes:

- 31 December 2018 Steel rail barriers and permanent concrete barriers
- 30 June 2019 Terminals
- 31 December 2019 Wire rope safety barriers and crash cushions
- 31 December 2020 Transitions, temporary barriers, Part 2 products

unless already done so by product proponents and submitted to the Panel for assessment.

Product proponents are advised that the Panel will not retest currently accepted products in line with the MASH guidelines as part of the re-rating process.

The Panel also notes that the Austroads Board has a target date of 2020 for implementation of Safe System. This proposed transition period compliments this overall Board objective and timeframe.



Stan Robb

**Chair
Austroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel**

Dated 23 April 2018