

Memorandum

*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

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Date: August 22, 2006

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Subject: Change in Flare Gap in Flared Columns

The Bridge Memo to Designers (MTD) 6-1, dated October 2001, gives guidance on detailing flared columns. MTD 6-1: Flare Column Details-1 requires the flare gap to be at least 2 inches (50 mm). Caltrans Seismic Design Criteria (SDC) Version 1.4 also specifies the minimum flare gap as 2 inches (50mm).

Tests have shown that the 2-inch (50 mm) flare gap may lead to an increase in the demands on the bent cap due to gap closure. Therefore, effective immediately, all flared column details shall incorporate a minimum flare gap of 4 inches (100 mm). If design calculations show that a larger gap is required, then approval for a larger gap should be obtained from the responsible Design Office Chief.

Where the contract plans for projects currently in construction show the flare gap to be less than 4 inches (100 mm), it is advised that a contract change order be issued to change the flare gap to 4 inches (100 mm), wherever practical.

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The above guidelines are interim until all relevant guidance documents are revised.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Madhwesh Raghavendrchar at (916) 227-7116 or at mraghave@dot.ca.gov.

c: SD Office Chiefs
All SD Seniors
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