



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 11, 1999

Refer to: HHS-10
B-29C

Mr. James J. Kerstein
President, Polywood Plastic
and Lumber, Inc.
3615 Kennedy Road
South Planfield, NJ 07080

Dear Mr. Kerstein:

This is in response to your January 15, 1999, letter requesting acceptance of your recycled plastic block by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for use with strong post W-beam guardrail. Subsequent telephone conversations between you and Mr. Richard Powers of my staff confirmed that the blocks you produce have essentially the same chemical composition as those of your predecessor company, ARW-Polywood. These blocks were accepted by FHWA on June 5, 1995. Consequently, your Polywood block may be considered acceptable for use on strong post metal beam guardrail along the National Highway System (NHS) when selected by a State highway agency. When used with steel posts, it must meet the dimensions shown on the enclosed drawing. This acceptance is based on the expected crash performance of your product only and is not intended to address the effects of weathering or UV degradation. We assume that you will certify to using highway agencies that the blocks you provide have essentially the same material composition as you indicated to us (80 percent High Density Polyethylene and 20 percent Polystyrene) and that you will provide information on their expected long-term durability as well.

Since your product is proprietary, its selection for use on the NHS must meet one of the conditions specified in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 635.411, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Dwight A. Horne
Director, Office of Highway Safety Infrastructure

2 Enclosures