

The Item 500's

By
Robert Sarcinella

a.k.a

"The Land of Mis-Fit Specs."

The Item 500 Cast and Crew

- David Bartz
- Keith Dunmire
- Melissa Gabriel
- Terry Keener
- Mark Marek
- Thomas Nagel
- Fitzgerald Sanchez
- Jerry Tallas

. . . and a Cast of Thousands!



Top 5 Reasons The 500 Specs. Are The “Best In The Book” . . .

5. Covers everything from “moving on in” (**Mobilization**) to “riding off into the sunset” (**Ride Quality for Pavement Surfaces**)
4. Developed after years of exhaustive research
3. In the elite company of “Indy” and “Fortune”
2. More fun than anyone should EVER have!
1. Thomas said so! (*Has not been confirmed*)



500's

- Item 500
- Item 502
- Item 504
- **Item 506 - NEW**
- Item 508
- Item 510
- Item 512
- Item 514
- Item 520
- **Item 522** – Combined in 400's
- **Item 524** – Moved to 421
- **Item 526** - *DELETED*
- **Item 528 - NEW**
- Item 529
- Item 530
- Item 531
- **Item 532** - *DELETED*
- **Item 533 - NEW**
- **Item 534** - *DELETED*
- Item 536
- Item 538
- Item 540
- Item 542
- **Item 544 - NEW**
- **Item 545 - NEW**
- Item 550
- Item 552
- Item 556
- Item 560
- **Item 575** - *DELETED*
- **Item 580** - Moved to 700's
- Item 585

500's – No Changes

- **Item 500**, “Mobilization”
- **Item 529**, “Concrete Curb, Gutter and Combined Curb and Gutter”
- **Item 536**, “Concrete Median and Directional Islands”
- **Item 542**, “Removing Metal Beam Guard Fence”
- **Item 560**, “Mailbox Assemblies”

500's – “No More”

- Item 522, “Portland Cement Plants” (Not environmentally friendly) – **Combined into the 400 Items**
- Item 524, “Hydraulic Cement” (Boring!) - **Incorporated into Item 421**
- Item 526, “Membrane Cure” (Not a cure for a cold) - **DMS**
- Item 532, “Concrete Erosion Retards” (Deleted for obvious reasons) – **Incorporated into the plans**
- Item 534, “Structure Approach Slabs” (Couldn't touch 'em) - **Incorporated into the plans**
- Item 575, “Epoxy” (Enuff said!) - **DMS**
- Item 580, “Project Maintenance” – (Couldn't maintain!) – **Moved to the 700's**

BREAK #1



"Our employees are our greatest asset. I say we sell them."

Item 502, “Barricades, Signs and Traffic Handling”

- Clarifies responsibilities for the for installation and maintenance.
- Clarifies that contractor submitted changes (can be signed and sealed by the Engineer).
- Works together with, State Law, Item 5.2, Item 7.9 and Form 599.

“Everybody is Responsible”

Item 504, “Field Office and Laboratory”

- Includes requirements for the Electrician in accordance with SS and Item 7.
- Added reference to DMS-10101 for office equipment (can now ask for computers, ISP, copier/printer/fax).
- Phone is now the required default.

Item 506, “Temporary Erosion, Sedimentation, and Environmental Controls”

- **NEW SPEC.** – Combined several SS.
- “Payment” includes provisions for maintaining, removal, and replacing devices.

Item 508, “Constructing Detours”

- Modified to include “Maintenance” as listed in Items 4 & 7

Item 510, “One-Way Traffic Control”

- Requires Contractor to furnish certified flaggers (Item 502).

Item 512, “Portable Concrete Traffic Barrier”

- Includes “DMS-7350” – Qualification of Precast Plants.
- Includes fabrication tolerances.

BREAK #2



Please don't let
this happen to
your organization.

Item 514, “Permanent Concrete Traffic Barrier”

- Includes “DMS-7350” – Qualification of Precast Plants.
- Includes fabrication tolerances.

Item 520, “Weighing and Measuring Equipment”

- Modified to only cover the equipment to measure weight and volume.
- Removed descriptions of concrete and hot mix production equipment.
- Increased accuracy for meters used for payment purposes.
- Added section on particulate and slurry meters (lime, mineral filler, lime slurry).

Item 528, “Colored Textured Concrete and Landscape Pavers”

- **NEW SPEC.** – Combined several SS.
- “Measurement” is now by the “SQ YD” (don’t confuse with previous measurement)
- Base is subsidiary for Pavers

Item 530, “Intersections, Driveways and Turnouts”

- Name change from “Driveways and Turnouts”
- Intersections will be paid for under the Item only when shown on the plans

Item 531, “Sidewalks”

- Includes requirements for “Pedestrian Ramps”.

Item 533, “Shoulder Texturing”

- **NEW SPEC.**
- Measurement by the “100-Foot Station”.

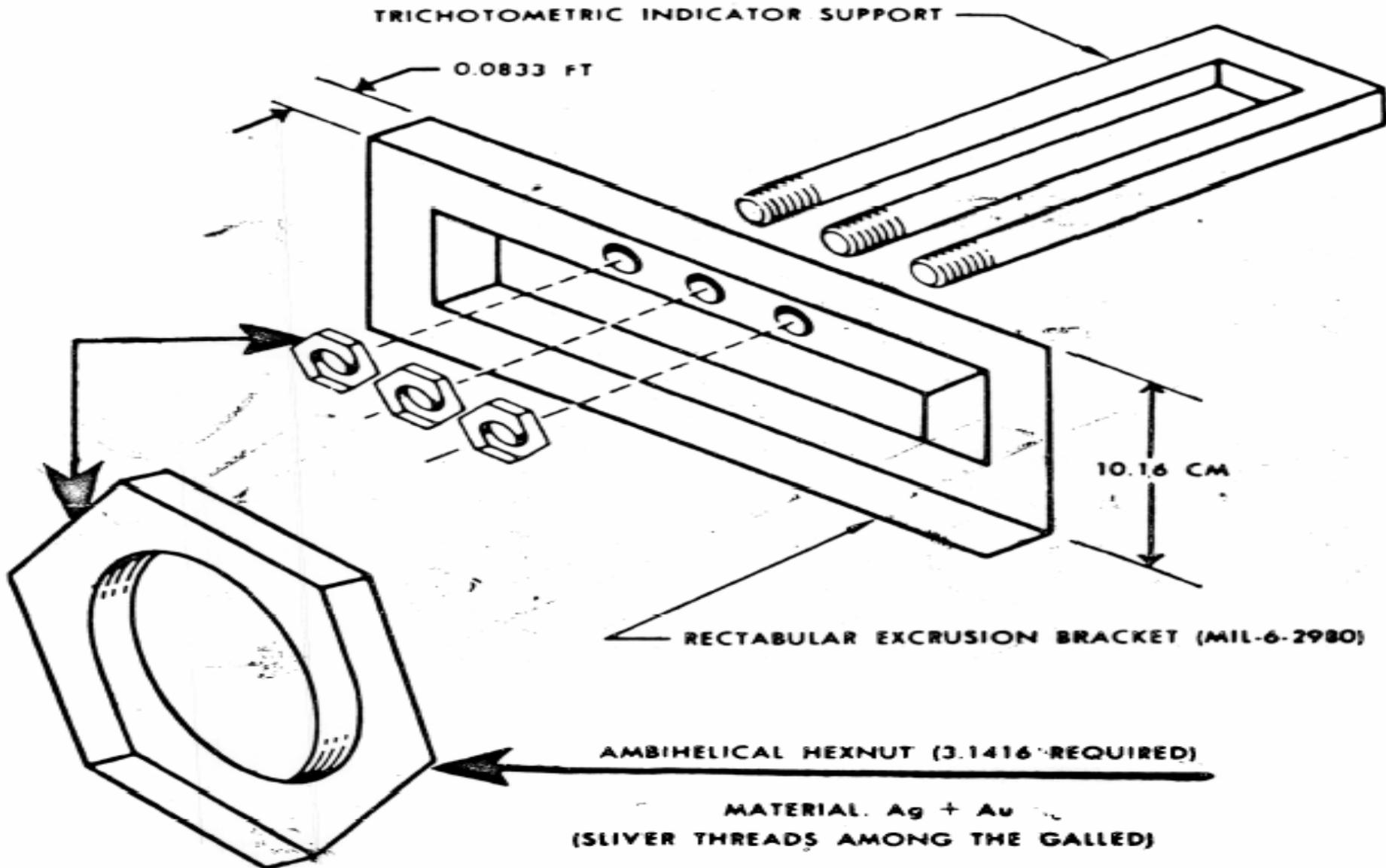
Item 538, “Right of Way Markers”

- Removed precast concrete marker option.
- TxDOT places “Punch Mark”.

Item 540, "Metal Beam Guard Fence"

- Includes "Replacement & Adjustment".
- Includes "Transitions".
- Material requirements in DMS-7200 & 7210.
- Includes requirements for curved sections.
- Includes rectangular posts and curbs.

Rewriting the 500 Specs. was like . . .



Item 544, “Guardrail End Treatments”

- **NEW SPEC.**
- Furnish treatments from the approved list
- PS&E Checklist information.
- Allows material to be furnished by either the Department or the Contractor.

Item 545, “Crash Cushion Attenuators”

- **NEW SPEC.**
- Furnish attenuators as shown on the plans and manufacturer’s drawings or approved equal.
- Allows material to be furnished by either the Department or the Contractor.

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Would You Invest Your Money with These People?



Bill Gates

Paul Allen

Microsoft Corporation, 1978

Item 550, “Chain Link Fence”

- Removed reference to “C” and “H” section posts.
- Includes requirements for PVC coatings.
- Bid Items cover “Install, Repair, and Remove”.

Item 552, “Wire Fence”

- Removed reference to mesquite posts.
- “Removal” is now subsidiary.

Item 556, “Pipe Underdrains”

- Modified to include requirements from Special Provisions.
- Added riprap option.
- Includes trench protection requirements.

Item 585, “Ride Quality for Pavement Surfaces”

- Similar to SS 5880.
- Localized Roughness Penalty \$500, \$250, & \$0 for Schedules 1, 2, & 3.
- Bonuses for Schedule 3 half of SS 5880.
- Diamond Grinding for Localized Roughness.
- Areas may be designated as “leave-out” on the plans.
- Pertinent Specification or Type A for Bridges and Approach Slabs.
- Engineer has more latitude in resolving differences.

LADIES and
GENTLEMEN:



Mr. Dale Rand

Applause - Applause