

TO:

# ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**SUPERSEDED BY EI 95-013  
EFFECTIVE 3/7/95**

**SUBJECT:** Restriction on Use of Top Rail  
Chain Link Fencing

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When a chain link fence is hit by an errant vehicle there is less potential for injury to the occupants if it is supported by a tension wire as opposed to a top rail. Therefore, since top rail fencing offers no particular cost advantage, generally it should not be used on State contracts. Exceptions will be made only in special cases where supporting justification is submitted with the P.S. and E. and the fencing is not within an established roadside clear area.

Exceptions will be approved in cases where there is a compelling reason such as:

- where existing top rail fencing is being repaired or extended;
- where top rail fencing with insert slots is required for visual screening;
- where vandalism problems are anticipated and top rail fencing would be more durable and/or easier to repair;
- on off system projects where specifically requested by the maintaining agency.
- on structures in accordance with Bridge Design Data Sheets.

In any event, I repeat, top rail fencing should never be used within an established roadside clear area or within the deflection distance of a Guide Railing.

RHE:KD

