

Work Zone Device MASH Implementation for Counties
Frequently Asked Questions
(Updated June 19, 2025)

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Question 1: What is MASH and why is it being adopted?

MASH 2016 refers to the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware, a set of standards for crash testing highway safety devices. It's an updated version of the earlier NCHRP-350 guidelines, designed to better reflect the current vehicle fleet and provide a more comprehensive evaluation of safety devices. Essentially, MASH 2016 provides the rules and criteria for testing and evaluating the performance of things like guardrails, crash cushions, and other safety hardware installed on roads.

Question 2: How do I know if a device is MASH compliant and can be used on WisDOT projects?

The device must be located on the [Department's Approved Products List \(APL\)](#), which is updated periodically. If a device is not on the APL that you want to use but it has a FHWA Eligibility Letter, you can apply to have it added. Applications should be submitted to DOTSignMarkWorkZoneMaterials@dot.wi.gov for review. As part of the WisDOT BTO Work Zone field inspection process, department staff will continue to provide awareness and guidance to counties on the deployment of MASH compliant work zone devices.

Question 3: Are FHWA Eligibility Letters Required for a device to be used and added to the APL?

Yes, Federal (FHWA) Eligibility Letters are required for the product to be considered for the Department's Approved Products List. The FHWA MASH Eligibility Letters are located at the following link: [Hardware Eligibility Letters | FHWA](#)

Question 4: Can I update my existing Type III Barricades to be MASH compliant?

Potentially. Parts from the non-proprietary Type III Barricade on the APL can be used to retrofit an existing Type III Barricade if they meet the requirements within the [build sheet](#). Decker Supply is the current vendor for the statewide work zone devices contracts and offers parts and support to help retrofit Type III Barricades to be in compliance with the non-proprietary Type III Barricade on the APL. To order parts, contact Decker Supply, attn: Josh Kunz joshkunz@deckersupply.com or (608) 249-2405. It should be noted that a county is not obligated to go to this source and could go to others if cheaper. Some other sources to procure Type III barricades in Wisconsin include Rent-A-Flash and TAPCO. Wherever counties go to purchase the Type III barricades, assurances need to be made to make sure that they are MASH compliant, in accordance with the APL.

Question 5: For the non-proprietary Type III Barricade, if my barricade has 2" uprights instead of the specified 1-3/4", can this be used?

No, the Type III Barricade must be built to follow all requirements on the [build sheet](#) which includes the materials, sizes, spacings, etc. and cannot be changed as that would require the updates to be crash tested as a new device. WisDOT has reached out to Midwest Roadside Safety, who performed the non-proprietary Type III barricade testing and they confirmed that the 2" uprights cannot be used, unless they are tested.

Question 6: Can the legs on the non-proprietary Type III Barricade be changed to angle iron feet?

No, see above Question 5.

Question 7: Can lights and signs be placed on Type III Barricades?

Yes, the Type A warning lights can be attached to the non-proprietary Type III barricades (shown on the [build sheet](#)), as they were MASH crash tested with lights on them. As for signs, an aluminum sign with a maximum size of 48" x 30" can be attached to the non-proprietary Type III barricade. Any signs larger than 48" x 30" or a combination of signs exceeding the square footage of the 48" x 30" can be installed on the non-proprietary Type III barricades, provided the sign base material is corrugated plastic.

Question 8: Do I need to update all of my work zone devices right away?

Not necessarily. The county can determine what their minimum annual needs are for each device that will be used on the roadway and update that portion of them every year. This should make budgeting out of their Small Tools allowance more manageable.

It should be noted that WisDOT has recently updated the Work Zone Field Manual for lane closures to utilize fewer barricades, which will help to lessen the impact of this change. The updated Work Zone Field Manual will be published in the near future and a link will be provided to the manual at that time.

Question 9: What happens if an emergency arises and a MASH compliant device is not available?

In emergency circumstances, the county may utilize a NCHRP 350 approved device until the MASH compliant device is available. The county should make every effort to replace the non MASH compliant device as soon as possible. This could involve purchasing additional devices or borrowing MASH compliant devices from a neighboring county.

Question 10: How are counties expected to pay for MASH compliant devices?

By utilizing the Small Tools allowance. See question #8 for the phased-in approach that can be utilized to help spread costs out over time.

Question 11: Where are the MASH compliance dates located and when do the MASH compliant devices need to be in effect?

The listing of MASH approved work zone devices with their associated compliance dates are shown on the Department's [Work Zone Devices Approved Products List](#). Effective July 1, 2025, only MASH compliant devices will be shown on the APL.

Question 12: Who to contact at WisDOT for questions?

Contact Mike Seifert at Michael.Seifert@dot.wi.gov or Andy Heidtke at Andrew.Heidtke@dot.wi.gov for MASH implementation related questions.