

Petition for Guidance Involving Improperly Installed Guardrail End Terminals

As concerned citizens, based on rights afforded to us under 49 CFR 5.3, we bring you our petition. We strongly urge USDOT's Federal Highway Administration to take immediate action to address the dangerous issue of incorrectly installed guardrail end terminals with Federal Aid Eligibility Letters and installed on the National Highway System through the issuance of new guidance.

Our children, Isabella Alonzo, Hunter Burns, PFC Michael Carter, Jr, and Hannah Eimers were all killed in guardrail crashes. Based on evidence and belief, our children are amongst the DOZENS of Americans killed in crashes involving a guardrail end terminal with installation errors. **The death of our children and dozens of others is alarming and highlights the urgent need for proper guidance to ensure their correct installation.**

As you are aware, guardrail end terminals have specific parts that must be installed properly for them to function properly and safely. Due to lack of proper guidance, these terminals might be improperly bolted, installed upside down/ backwards, and even installed with parts from different guardrail systems. **These dangerous installations regularly lead to tragic consequences.**

We urge you to take swift action to create clear and comprehensive guidance related to the proper installation of guardrail end terminals. This includes providing detailed instructions and diagrams, as well as conspicuously on-product labeling of any guardrail end terminal receiving federal aid reimbursement.

Specifically we request guidance related to:

1. Any part which must be installed directionally will be clearly marked with on-product directional arrows/ warnings
2. Any bolt with special material features, specific length, install direction, install method (not through rail), or on the leading/ trailing position will be color coded.
3. Any part included in a proprietary guardrail end terminal will be clearly marked as being a part of that system.

Furthermore, it would be ideal if FHWA were to recommend a comprehensive inspection and certification process be implemented to ensure that these terminals are installed correctly.

We implore you to take this matter seriously, as it concerns the safety of all road users and the lives of many citizens. We urge you to take action to prevent any more fatalities caused by incorrectly installed guardrail end terminals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.