U.S. Department
Of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

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

October 2, 1989

Refer to: HNG-14/SS-13A

Mr. Mark S. Granger
Sign Post Sales Manager
Marion Steel Company
912 Cheney Avenue
Marion, Ohio 43302

Dear Mr. Granger:

Our letter of August 31 granted acceptance for your company's Rib-Bak sign posts in sizes from 2 to 4 pound-per-foot when used with a lap splice connection. Since copies of this letter were received in our field offices we have received questions regarding the grade of steel used. The report prepared by the Texas Transportation Institute Small sign Support Analysis, stated the steel used in the crash-tested supports "was found to develop the nominal material yield stress (80 ksi) under static bending loads". The 80-ksi reference was used in the attachment to our acceptance letter and has resulted in some confusion.

In order to clarify the issue, we discussed this with you on September 29 at which time you indicated that the steel used is of your own formulation and may be referred to as "SP-80" steel. This steel was designed to meet the chemical and physical requirements cited in Federal Highway Administration's September 27, 1983, Technical Advisory T 5040.22 "Steel Flanged Channel Posts for Small Highway Sign Supports". You stated that Marion Steel found that steel made to this specification uniformly attained a yield strength of 80 ksi, therefore your company certified SP-80 as an 80-ksi yield steel.

We are clarifying this matter with our field offices via copies of this latter.

Sincerely yours,

L. A. Staron, Chief
Federal-Aid and Design Division

Federal Highway Administration
HNG-14:Nartimovich:gm:9-29-89:61331

Copies to:
Hed-1 hng-1 hng-10 hng-14 Reader, 3212
Reader, 3128 Reader, 3206 File, 3128
RAs HST-04