

Question:

Is “Remove Concrete Pavement” within roadway excavation limits included in “Roadway Excavation”? If it is, is removing curb and gutter, sidewalk and driveway within roadway excavation limits also included?

Answer:

Your attention is directed to section 19-2.01 of the standard specifications and standard plan A62A. If curb, gutter, sidewalk and driveway are within the roadway excavation limits, then its is included in the roadway excavation bid item.

Question:

Regarding section 13-3.04 PAYMENT page 184 at the top; why does it say that the Department pays \$500 for each REAP and \$2,000 for each storm water annual report? These are bid items and the unit price is determined by the bid. This language dates from before the bid items were established but when the work was required by the new Caltrans Permit from the Water Board. At that time supplemental funds were provided for the purpose, which ostensibly is no longer the case. Can this language be removed now?

Answer:

As part of the Caltrans construction general permit that came out several years ago, there was an agreement between Caltrans and Industry because estimating the cost of doing the REAPs and storm water annual reports at that time was not known by Caltrans or Industry; and what it would take to do this kind of work. The agreement was that we would have a fixed price for these two items of work. These are among only a few items where we have a fixed price.

We will look into changing the specifications to remove the applicable language.

Question:

Are supplemental project information, such as geotechnical reports and hydraulic reports, part of contract?

Answer:

If the reports are included in the special provisions they are considered part of the supplemental project information.

Question:

Supplemental Project Information:

The webcast did not include discussion of section 10-1.02B, para 4 of the RSS, which is an Information Handout:

Conduct the status check with the Engineer and an electrical representative from the traffic operations office of the district in which the work is located. The Department provides you a list of the preconstruction operational status-check results, including:

1. Existing traffic management system elements and their locations within the project limits
2. Fully functioning elements
3. Nonoperational elements

Answer:

The Standard Specifications do not specify that the above 3 items are supplemental project information that is provided at the time of the bid. However, the specs do say that the Department will provide them. For contractors, if the 3 items are not provided up front at the time of bid, then they should ask the RE for them at the preconstruction conference, so that the preconstruction operational status-check can be completed.

Question:

There is no Sec. 86, Electrical in the 2015 specs???

Answer:

At the time the 2015 standard plans and specifications were published, the electrical specifications were not completed. On April 15, 2016 the Department published sections 86 and 87 as part of the revised standard specifications.

Question:

Does prebid question = bidder inquiry?

Answer:

Yes, the term prebid question is equivalent to bidder inquiry.

Question:

Can payment clauses be included in the Special Provisions and therefore supersede the Standards?

Answer:

Yes, if a payment clause is needed in the special provision it can be added. It is rare that a payment clause is needed. The special provisions govern over the standard specifications.

Question:

An example was given of tack coat as a separate bid item for other than minor HMA work. Do you have other examples of changes in the 2015s which would significantly affect the possibility of change orders?

Answer:

Some were given in the 2015 Standards video but we should be reading the specs and understanding them. You will find those examples in the specs. We are not going to publish a list of all of these little nuances.

Question:

Will the payment for AC Dike still require payment under the asphalt item section 36 (ton); and also by LF?

Answer:

The various types of hot mix asphalt dike are paid for by the linear foot unless there is a nonstandard bid item code.

Question:

Slides 71-74 are referring to section changes but didn't note division changes and sections.

Answer:

The information for division changes is shown on slides 68 and 69.

Question:

Have the bid items numbers been moved along with the corresponding sections?

Answer:

No, not until we can support one set of standards. Until then, nonmatching items codes will be referenced in the special provision in section 1-1.01.

Question:

Do you have a “tree” showing the division, section, sub-section, etc. – comes in really handy when you have to look for something specific and cuts down “search” time. Same as when you query “tree /s > dirlist.txt” in the DOS code module you will get a complete folder / sub-folder listing so you know how far it “snakes” its way down in the list.

Answer:

No, we don’t have a tree. Doing a word search with CTRL-F is one way of quickly finding words or phrases in the electronic version of the Standard Specifications.

Question:

Since a lot of the sections have changes, a large number of the item codes will also be changing. Will the contract Cost Data be updated to the new code numbers so we can now search using the new numbers or will we have to look at the old numbers to get past cost data?

Answer:

The cost data book will have the bid item codes used for the project.

Question:

Where is the standard specification for guard rail terminal systems? Section 83-2.04 is blank.

Answer:

The “reserved” blank sections are typically for special provisions.

Question:

We've noticed that several Contractors submitted GFE forms even though they were not the 3 lowest bidders; is this a new requirement?

Answer:

GFE forms are required at the time of bid; your attention is direction to section 2-1.12 and 2-1.33.

Question:

For the QA tests, will reference still be made to the 2010 Construction Manual Chapter 6?
Does that back up conform with the 2015 QA tables?

Answer:

The Division of Construction will be updating the Construction Manual to parallel the 2015 Standard Specifications. The references in the manual will be updated as well.

Question:

Are you planning to update the section 15 item codes to utilize their new sections?

Answer:

Eventually the item codes will be updated, but not until we can support one set of standards. Currently, we are supporting both the 2010 and 2015 standards. Until then, nonmatching items codes will be referenced in the special provision in section 1-1.01.

Question:

Is there an updated Bid Item Number List that corresponds to all the changes in the 2015 Standard Specifications? Can the link to the web-site address be provided for this?

Answer:

Updated bid items can be found under the heading coded contract items at the following link:

<http://des.onramp.dot.ca.gov/office-engineer/construction-contract-standards.>

Question:

How do you correlate Roadside sign in Std Spec 82 vs. item codes staying in 56---

Answer:

Your attention is directed to the special provisions in section 1-1.01 for any bid item codes that don't match the standard specification section.

Question:

Where are the electrical specs; division X shows "reserved" no content?

Answer:

At the time the 2015 standard plans and specifications were published, the electrical specifications were not completed. On April 15, 2016 the Department published sections 86 and 87 as part of the revised standard specifications.

Question:

1. If you are writing a special provision referring to an RSS do you also need to list the date of the last revision to this RSS section?
2. Would you put any local utility adjustment or modification special provisions in Section 78?

Answer:

1. No, do not list the date. If you are writing a special provision, your revision clause should replace, add, or delete the existing requirement.
2. No, section 77 is a dedicated section for local infrastructure requirements.

Question:

Are the local agencies that use Caltrans Standards going to need to move to a different methodology of acceptance when we adopt these standards?

Answer:

If the Local Agency is using the Department's standards for acceptance they must follow the requirements specified. Otherwise, the Local Agency would need to develop specifications for the acceptance of materials.

Question:

Where are details on filing notice of potential claim, subsequent notice, and final notice?

Answer:

The details are in Section 5-1.43, “Potential Claims and Dispute Resolution,” of the 2015 Std. Specs.

Question:

Is the reference in 2015 SS 17-2.03D Disposal of Materials to duff as specified section 21-1.02C the old 2010 SS section number (rather than to 2015 SS section 21-2.02B, Duff)?

Answer:

In the 2010 Std. Specs., “duff” is mentioned in Section 16-1.03D, “Disposal of Materials,” Section 21-1.02C, “Duff,” Section 21-1.03C, “Duff,” Section 21-1.03N, “Incorporate Materials,” and Section 21-1.04, “Payment.”

In the 2015 Std. Specs., “duff” is mentioned in Section 17-2.03D, “Disposal of Materials,” Section 21-2.02B, “Duff,” Section 21-2.03B, “Duff,” and Section 21-2.03J, “Incorporate Materials.”

So, it is an error in the 2015 Std. Specs. that Section 21-1.02C, “Duff,” is referenced in Section 17-2.03D, “Disposal of Materials.” The reference should be to Section 21-2.02B, “Duff.”

This should be corrected in a revised standard specification or in the next version of the Standard Specifications.

Question:

Sat in on last week's webcast. This question was asked, but not answered: By what date must the Caltrans 2015 Standards be put into effect at local agencies?

Answer:

Check with your Caltrans liaison to your local agency.

Question:

Where should testing for various Electrical Systems belong? Should requirements for testing done by the Contractor belong under Quality Control or Construction?

Answer:

Testing is covered in both Quality Control and Construction depending on the system tested. For example, conductor tests are done under Quality Control. Loop detectors tests are done under Construction.

Question:

What Section(s) include adjustments/removals to existing utility features (valves, manhole, meters)?

Answer:

Section 71, “Existing Drainage Facilities,” of the 2015 Std. Specs. includes requirements for adjustments/removals to existing utility features.

Question:

According to a previous 2010 SSP, accessible pedestrian signal shall be mounted on Type 1 pole and traffic signal pole, and not allow on PPB post. I don't see this language in 2015 RSS and SSP anymore. Caltrans allow to mount APS on PPB now?

Answer:

The language to mandate Type 1 standard was eliminated from the Revised Standards, because it was considered guidance to designers and it is the responsibility of the Designer (not the Contractor) to comply with the CA MUTCD. It would be too late if the designer shows a different type of pole in the design plans, and then the Contractor would have to request a Contract Change Order to comply with the request.

The Revised standards have been evaluated and all recommendation or guidance to designers, were eliminated.

The designer must comply with the CA MUTCD requirement. (CA MUTCD, Chapter 2, section 2B.52 and Chapter 4). The R10 signs for pedestrians shall be installed immediately above the pedestrian detectors. The sign dimension is 9" by 12".

Question:

I am with District 11 Construction and currently using the 2006 Standard Specifications, since my job requires 2006. How do I get a hold of standard plan 2015?

Answer:

The 2015 Standard Plans and revised standard plans are available on the internet at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/construction-contract-standards.html>

Question:

In the past we have been referring to the 2006 Standard Specifications in our city's projects since the section numbers are consistent with our City's standard specifications. However, the City's standard specifications are no longer consistent with the 2010 and especially the 2015 Standard Specifications. Will Caltrans develop a "Decoder Ring" document (similar to the Caltrans supplement to the MUTCD) that summarizes the differences between the 2010 and 2015 Standard Specifications?

Answer:

We are not planning to do a written summary of the differences between the 2010 and 2015 Standard Specifications. However, when we developed changes in the 2015 Std. Specs., we also did parallel changes in the 2010 Std. Specs. using revised standard specifications (RSS). This was done so that contracts going out with either 2010 or 2015 Std. Specs had very similar provisions and requirements. You can watch the 2015 Standards video to see the differences in organization, format, and section structure between the 2010 and 2015 Std. Specs.

Question:

We noticed that Sheets ES-6A, ES-7A, and ES-7N of the 2010 and 2015 Standard Plans were recently modified (on July 15, 2016). What was the reason for the recent modifications?

Answer:

We do periodic updates to Std. Plans in the form of Revised Standard Plans (RSP). When I looked at July 15, 2016 RSP ES-6A, ES-7A, and ES-7N and compared them with same numbered sheets in the 2015 Standard Plans book, I noticed minor changes in the charts or diagrams as follows:

- (a) In RSP Sheet ES-6A, CIDH Pile foundation data was added in the left chart.
- (b) In RSP Sheet, ES-7A, vertical dimension information was added in the Elevation diagram.
- (c) In RSP Sheet ES-7N, a row of data was added in the chart in the middle of the sheet.

There may also be other changes in the sheets that I did not notice.

Question:

I could not find the bid item code for electrical work on stage construction in the 2015 now such as signal and lighting (stage construction). How does it work now?

Answer:

You can use “Temporary Signal and Lighting” as section 12 bid item. You will need to use and edit SSP 1-1.01 to refer the contractor to section 87.

Question:

Why have we reverted in 2015 to using the old "AC" and the new "HMA" (interchangeably) instead of using just the national "HMA" terminology.

A confusing step backwards?

Answer:

Actually the broader term and industry standard term is asphalt concrete or hot mix asphalt concrete. We chose to use asphalt concrete. When we refer to existing asphaltic concrete material, we call the material asphalt concrete and not hot mix asphalt.

Question:

As of when will the 2015 standard plans and specs be required to be included as part of the construction contracts?

Answer:

The Department's implementation for using the 2015 standards is after June 30, 2016. Projects ready-to-list will use the 2015 standards.

Question:

Regarding QC/QA for Electrical Items, does Section 87 ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS (RSS 4/15/16) still follow Caltrans Quality Assurance (QC/QA) philosophy or not?

Answer:

Yes. However, testing is covered in both Quality Control and Construction depending on the system tested. For example, conductor tests are done under Quality Control. Loop detectors tests are done under Construction.

Question:

Will this webcast be available to consultants or is it only internal for Caltrans employees?

Answer:

It's for everybody, including consultants, contractors, local agencies etc.

Question:

How are we to reconcile the requirement in the 2015 Standard Specifications that the bid item first two digits correspond with section with the statement that bid item numbers won't be updated for 6 months to a year.

Answer:

The 2010 standards have the same requirement. There is a special provision in section 1-1.01 which covers the transition to the section that applies.

Question:

Do monuments even matter now?

Answer:

Survey monuments do matter. The requirements are covered in 2015 Standard Specifications Section 5-1.36E Survey Monuments and Section 78-2 Survey Monuments.

Question:

I have projects that include cross-sections as part of the project plans. These projects are using the 2006 Standard Plans and Specifications, RSPs, and revised Std. Specs. For projects that are using the 2006 Standard Specifications, are cross-sections included as Supplemental Project Information? Would the inclusion of cross-sections in these project plans referencing the 2006 Standards have any ramifications in terms of possible claims, etc.?

Answer:

The 2006 Standards had amendments that served the same purpose as RSP's and RSS's in the 2010 and 2015 Standards. The 2006 Standards were amended to parallel the 2010 Standards at the time the 2010 Standards were completed. The 2010 Standard Specifications has Section 2-1.06B Supplemental Project Information, which mentions cross sections. So, 2006 Standards projects that included the amendments and have cross sections, would be considered to have cross sections as Supplemental Project Information.

Caltrans is responsible for the quality of plans, specifications, estimates, and Supplemental Project Information. Inclusion of the cross sections in the project plans is similar to including them as separate Supplemental Project Information. The ramifications for possible claims are likely the same for both methods of providing information to the contractor.

Question:

Is Caltrans going to provide a Construction Contract Standards Quick Reference for the new 2015 SP?

Answer:

The closest thing to a Quick Reference is the following internet web link on the Contract Standards website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/des/oe/construction-contract-standards.html>

2015 Standard Plans, Specifications, Special Provisions, RSP's and RSS's are all shown. A good method for quickly finding relevant information is doing a word search using the CTRL-F keyboard shortcut.

Question:

On slide 47, reference was made to “the general divisions”; did you mean to state “Division 1 General Provision”

Answer:

The two “General” divisions are “Division I General Provisions” and “Division II General Construction.” So, what the slide has shown as “General divisions” is correct since that part of the slide was about examples of Contract Specifications.

Question:

You showed 2015 Division VI Drainage Facilities but it should have shown Division VII

Answer:

That is correct. Slides 100 and 101 each have an error and should show Division VII and not Division VI for Drainage Facilities.

Question:

1. Why is the Std plan for ESA Fence identified as Temp Water Pollution Control Detail (Temporary Fence (Type ESA) and in the Specifications as Temp facilities, High Visibility Fences? Seems inconsistent...
2. Where did the information that was in section 15 for adjusting utility covers go to?
3. Why is there nothing in 77 and no special provisions?

Answer:

1. Section 16-2.03 High-Visibility Fences of the 2015 Std. Specs. states that “A high-visibility fence is shown on the Bid Item List as a temporary fence (Type ESA).” The cross reference works for this situation. The general intent is to make the terms coordinate between the standard plans and standard specifications. It does not always work out initially but is usually resolved with revised plans and specs.
2. Utility covers are discussed in 2015 Std. Specs. Section 70 Miscellaneous Drainage Facilities, Section 71 Existing Drainage Facilities, and Section 75 Miscellaneous Metal.
3. Standard Special Provisions related to Section 77 Local Infrastructure will be included in projects when appropriate.

Question:

For 2015 do we need to say in the Revision clause if it is the RSS (not the actual Std Spec) that we are revising?

Example:

Replace section 39-1.03L of the RSS for section 39 with:

Answer:

No, because we replace, add, or delete standard specifications text, whether it is text from the 2015 Std. Specs. when it was first published or RSS's that already revised Std. Spec. text.

Question:

1. Will the webcast recording and slides be available later?
2. Our City's standard specifications conformed to earlier versions of Caltrans Standard Specifications in terms of division and section numbering. Local Assistance is now requiring local agencies to use most current Caltrans standard specifications. This new requirement severely complicates the preparation of project specs. What is the reason for this new requirement for locally-administered federal-aid projects?

Answer:

1. Yes, the recorded webcast video is at the same webpage as this Q & A file.
2. The question regarding new requirements for local agencies should be taken up with your Caltrans Local Assistance liaison.

Question:

If you need a bid item for any item over \$2,000 then where is temporary shoring and or coffer dams paid for?

Answer:

Temporary shoring and cofferdams are temporary in nature and full compensation for them is considered as included in the contract prices for other items of work, such as excavation items. See Standard Specifications Section 9 Payment, Section 16 Temporary Facilities, and Section 48 Temporary Structures.

Question:

If the Type 736 becomes the new standard height barrier to use, is the current Standard Plan B11-56 going to be revised regarding the base width of 1'-5 ¾" to match the base width of the Types 732 and 742? Otherwise, it will result in a total bridge width measured to the nearest ¼ to ½" depending on barrier types. It is important to understand that the traffic side slope currently on the 742 doesn't match the 732 so why does the slope of the 736 need to match the 732?

Answer:

This is the current status:

1. Revised Standard Plan RSP B11-55 (Concrete Barrier type 732) shows a base width of 1'-5".
2. Revised Standard Plan RSP B11-56 (Concrete Barrier Type 736) shows a base width of 1'-5 ¾".
3. Revised Standard Plan RSP B11-57 (Concrete Barrier Type 742) shows a base width of 1'-6 ¾".

We don't have enough information to answer your questions about future changes on the barrier base width for the above three concrete barrier types. In addition, we understand that the current side slopes are different for each concrete barrier type.

Question:

The database of bid results (maintained by D8) is very useful. With sweeping changes in item codes to match sections, will dbase automatically search by item description to bridge the gap in changing section codes?

Answer:

We are aware of the District 8 database and appreciate its usefulness. You should check with D8 staff that maintain that database to find out if it will do the automatic search. If not, maybe the feature could be added.

The internet web link that shows D8 projects is: <http://dot.ca.gov/d8/>

Question:

What is your advice to merging the special provisions with a local agency general provisions formatted by APWA, CSI, etc.

Answer:

Caltrans staff would not merge Caltrans special provisions with general provisions formatted by APWA, CSI, etc. It would require much spec writing expertise for a local agency to do that successfully. Caltrans standard special provisions go through extensive development and vetting before statewide use in contracts. Often proposed special provisions are tried and tested in projects as non-standard special provisions before being revised and further developed into standard special provisions.