

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

Thomas F. Boudewick
CHIEF ENGINEER

CERTIFICATION OF DESIGN EXCEPTION REPORTS

Design Exceptions (waivers) from controlling criteria are vital project components that require appropriate documentation by design engineers. This documentation must be in report format based on the guidelines identified in Chapter 8 of the Highway Design Manual and should be submitted at, or prior to, the 25% Highway submittal.

The designer's obligation regarding Design Exceptions shall be to design the work in a manner consistent with that of skill and care ordinarily exercised by members of the same profession practicing under similar circumstances. The American Society of Civil Engineers Code of Ethics states, in part,

Engineers shall approve or seal only those design documents, reviewed or prepared by them, which are determined to be safe for public health and welfare in conformity with accepted engineering standards.

With this in mind, the cover page of all Design Exception Reports prepared by design consultants must be stamped by the responsible professional engineer and signed by a Principal or Chief Engineer of the firm preparing the report. Reports that do not contain this certification shall not be reviewed by MassHighway and shall be returned to the designer. This certification shall be in addition to and separate from other required project certifications, such as those normally shown on the Title Sheet and on the Bridge Plans.

All Design Exception Reports prepared by MassHighway personnel must be reviewed and stamped by the Highway Design Engineer prior to being submitted to the Chief Engineer for approval.

This Directive is effective immediately.