

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Statewide Design and Engineering Services

TO: DISTRIBUTION

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SUBJECT: U.S. Customary Units
Conversion

Commissioner Perkins has directed (memo dated 8/13/01) the Department to convert from the International System of Units (metric) to U.S. Customary units (English). Currently, the Department's use of metric units is limited to products necessary for the design and construction of highways and airports. To implement the Commissioner's directive, D&ES staff will do the following:

- Design and Construction Standards Section will convert manuals, specifications, and guidance. Due dates for key publications are:
 - Electronic English version of 1998 Highway Specifications 11/1/01
 - Published 2002 English Highway Specifications 8/1/02
 - Published Construction Manual 2/1/02
 - Published Preconstruction Manual 3/1/02Electronic English Airport Standard Specifications is available as of 8/1/02.
- Statewide Materials will pursue English conversion of WAQTC Test Methods and will publish the English Test Manual by May 1, 2002.
- Airport project starts will be in English. Highway project starts beginning after the availability of the published 2002 Highway Specifications will be in English.
- The regional Preconstruction Engineer will determine units for shelf projects, projects currently in design, and new starts prior to the availability of published English highway specifications.
- Highway projects being developed in English prior to the availability of published English specifications shall use either:
 - the 1998 Standard Specifications modified by Special Provisions; or
 - the English version of 1998 Standard Specifications incorporated into the contract documents.
- The Federal Highway Administration has approved the use of English units for environmental documents. However, environmental documents will continue to be dual units for metric projects.

- Project development products (geotechnical reports, right-of-way mapping) should be in the same units as the plans and specifications.

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