



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

March 21, 2016

## **CIRCULAR LETTER 2016-07**

### **PIPE CULVERTS, SPECIAL (NON-FEDERAL AID PROJECTS)**

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS  
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The 2016 Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction and Recurring Special Provisions are effective April 1, 2016. These specifications modify Sections 542 “Pipe Culverts” and 550 “Storm Sewers” to be in conformance with the design requirements of the AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) specifications.

In response to Local Public Agency desire for an alternative design for low volume roads and entrance pipe culverts, the Department has prepared the attached Special Provision LR 542-1, “Pipe Culverts, Special.” It may be found at the IDOT website for [BLRS Special Provisions](#). The LR 542-1 special provision eliminates certain requirements for pipe sizes less than 42 inches in diameter, effectively providing the same design as previous Standard Specifications. Pipe culverts designed in accordance with the LRFD specification expect a 75-year design life; while the expected design life for LR 542-1 pipe culverts may be 30-40 years. The LR 542-1 special provision may only be used on non-federally funded projects. Pipe culvert specifications on federally funded projects must follow the 2016 Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

Questions regarding this circular letter may be directed to the Local Policy and Technology Unit at (217) 785-5048 or [DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Salmon O. Danmole in blue ink.

Salmon O. Danmole, P.E.  
Acting Engineer of  
Local Roads and Streets

Handwritten signature of D. Carl Puzey in black ink.

D. Carl Puzey, P.E., S.E.  
Acting Engineer of  
Bridges and Structures

JK/tw  
Attachment

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cc: Dan Brydl, FHWA - Illinois Division  
Gary Iles, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Elias Ajami, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority  
Eric Seibring, Illinois Association of County Engineers  
Joe Schatteman, Illinois Municipal League  
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois  
Christine Filbert, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois

State of Illinois  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Bureau of Local Roads and Streets

SPECIAL PROVISION  
FOR  
PIPE CULVERTS, SPECIAL

Effective: April 1, 2016

All references to Sections or Articles in this specification shall be construed to mean a specific Section or Article of the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, adopted by the Department of Transportation.

Description. This work shall be performed in accordance with Section 542 of the Standard Specifications, except that Aluminized Type 2 Steel or Precoated Galvanized Steel is not required for pipe diameters up to 42 inches.

Basis of Payment. The basis of payment shall be in accordance with Article 542.11 of the Standard Specifications. The material will be paid for at the contract unit price bid per meter (foot) of PIPE CULVERTS, SPECIAL of the diameters or equivalent round size specified, and of the particular kind of material when specified.