



MEMORANDUM

To: District Engineers
Attn: Directors of Transportation Planning and Development
and District Bridge Engineers

April 4, 2001

From: Mary Lou Ralls, P.E.
Director, Bridge Division

Subject: New Retaining Wall Standards (English and Metric)

The new Retaining Wall Standards (English and Metric), with an issue date of April 2001, are posted at the TxDOT web site and are available for immediate use. They are available from the Bridge Standards (English or Metric) web page in MicroStation® “dgn” and Adobe® Acrobat® “pdf” formats; therefore, copies of the standards were not included with this memorandum. These standards are a combination of new and revised sheets and will replace the old standards that were last issued as a set on December 4, 1996. Please distribute this information to the appropriate district staff and area offices as well as those consulting engineers working on TxDOT projects.

Summary of major changes:

The existing hand drawn standards have been redrawn and updated into an electronic format.

The English Spread Footing Retaining Wall Standards have been simplified. In place of the eight surcharge levels used in the previous standard sheets, there are 3 surcharge levels utilized in the new standards. The “A” surcharge is for retaining walls supporting a level ground surface, without additional loads. The “B” surcharge is for walls supporting a slope of 4:1 or flatter. The “C” surcharge is designed for walls supporting roadway traffic, or slopes as steep as 2.5:1.

Walls supporting slopes steeper than 2.5:1, or unusually heavy surcharge, such as a railroad, will require a special design.

The Metric Spread Footing Wall Standards have the same surcharge designations as noted above.

The RW (TEW) “Temporary Earth Retaining Wall” is a new standard sheet in the Proprietary Retaining Wall section. This standard sheet outlines minimum design criteria and specific construction criteria for this class of walls, which are often used for staged fills and other temporary wall applications.

If you have questions or comments concerning these new standards, please contact David McDonnold, P.E., at (512) 416-2229 or Mark McClelland, P.E., at (512) 416-2226.

Note: Original signed by Mary Lou Ralls

cc: Administration
Division and Office Directors
Federal Highway Administration
All Bridge Division Employees