

**New Jersey Department of Transportation
CORRECTIVE ACTION NOTICE**

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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CAN No. CAN029

**Approved: B. Strizki
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Bureau(s) Affected: All CPM Units

Description of Problem(s):

FHWA in mid-1990 mandated that all projects advertised after September 30, 1996 using Federal funds must be in metric units. Due to the complexity of converting to metric, however, this date was extended to September 30, 2000. While New Jersey proceeded to convert totally over to metric, several states resisted and sought congressional action to remove this mandate.

Through the passage of TEA-21, the mandate was removed. A number of states that had totally converted to metric have chosen to convert back to English units and AASHTO has chosen to convert all of its metric documents to a dual system.

NJDOT has customers that include agencies, counties, and other local governing bodies which have not chosen to convert over to metric. These individuals are currently using the Department's outdated English Standards and Specifications. In addition, many contractors convert projects advertised in metric back to English units for construction purposes. State and local regulatory agencies currently require English for all applications. The Department requires Developer Access Permit plans in metric, however, local approving authorities require plans in English. Engineers, contractors, and suppliers have recently gone on record asking the Department to convert back to English.

Based on the above, the Department has decided to update all of its baseline documents in both an English and metric version, so that projects can be designed and constructed in either measurement unit.

It is anticipated that all Department baseline documents will be available in updated versions in early 2001 in both metric and English versions. Until the release of these documents, the following guidance is given concerning which measurement unit may be used for design and construction of projects.

Corrective Action Plan:

The Department is currently developing a new set of supporting baseline documents (specifications, manuals, standards, etc.) in both updated metric and English units. This will provide the flexibility to deliver projects in either measurement unit, and will allow other agencies, counties, local municipalities, and other external customers to develop projects using up-to-date standards and specifications.

Effective immediately, the requirement for design plan development and permit application submission is listed below:

- All NJDOT New Starts are to be developed in metric.
- Current NJDOT projects that have been developed in English and have not been converted are to remain in English.

- Current NJDOT projects that have been developed in metric units are to remain in metric.
- Plan submission for developer projects are to be developed and submitted in metric units, or they will be permitted to be developed with dual units. (The metric standard will appear on the plan with the English equivalent in parenthesis. Also, the measurements will be shown to scale on the plans).
- The units for development of Local Aid projects are at the option of the sponsoring county/municipality. However, if the project will revise an existing traffic signal on the State Highway system, traffic signal and electrical traffic plans must be in metric, or they will be permitted to be developed with dual units. (The metric standard will appear on the plan with the English equivalent in parenthesis).

To ensure its implementation, the responsibility of each unit shall be as follows:

Designer (Consultant or In-House Design)

Responsible for developing the plans in accordance with the above requirements.

Division of Project Management

Project Manager – Responsible for ensuring that the designers are developing the plans appropriately in accordance with the above requirements.

Configuration Management Unit – Quality Management Services

Responsible for overseeing the development of all supporting documents in the English system.

Upon completion of developing all supporting baseline documents in English units, the Department will re-evaluate its position on which system it will use for New Starts based on the national trend and other factors.

Implementation: Immediately