

Rick Ellis

From: Rick Ellis
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Fred Felix; Ana Olivares; pkeesler@orovalleyaz.gov; Mick Jensen; Beth Abramovitz; Keith Brann (Marana); artemio.hoyos@pasquayaqui-nsn.gov; Bill Lopez (TO Nation)
Cc: Paul Casertano; - Mike Holder - Former Employee
Subject: RE: EFFECTIVE December 3, 2018; INFORMATION: 23 CFR 625 Design Standards Final Rule Published
Attachments: Memo - Final Rule 23 CFR.pdf; FR- 23 CFR 625 2018-11-01.pdf; Slides - Interstate Guide Revisions.pdf

In February of this year, we sent you an email to your notifying you of the changes associated with the Final Rule for 23 CFR 625.4, regarding use of the current design standards and applications for all projects on the National Highway System (NHS) (see below).

We have subsequently received updated information from the Arizona Department of Transportation; Local Public Agency Section (ADOT LPA) and wanted to pass this onto you (see attached). If there are any differences between previously published Pima Association of Governments (PAG) standard specifications and details, this latest guidance shall take precedence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 520-495-1478.

Rick

Rick Ellis

Transportation Services Director



Pima Association of Governments

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From: Mike Holder <MHolder@pagregion.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 2:44 PM

To: Fred Felix <Fred.Felix@tucsonaz.gov>; Ana Olivares <Ana.Olivares@pima.gov>; pkeesler@orovalleyaz.gov; Mick Jensen <mjensen@southtucson.org>; Beth Abramovitz <babramovitz@sahuaritaaz.gov>; sleska@maranaaz.gov; andrew.korchmarosjr@tonation-nsn.gov; artemio.hoyos@pasquayaqui-nsn.gov

Cc: Paul Casertano <PCasertano@pagregion.com>; Rick Ellis <REllis@pagregion.com>

Subject: FW: EFFECTIVE December 3, 2018; INFORMATION: 23 CFR 625 Design Standards Final Rule Published

Please review the attached from ADOT regarding FHWA published Final Rule to Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 625. As noted below, these updated standards will be required to be used for all NHS projects authorized to proceed with design activities on or after December 3, 2018. Projects authorized prior to this date may continue to use previously adopted standards or updates to the new standards.

We bring this to your attention in case you are working on or anticipate working on any NHS projects that will need to adhere to the updated standards. Here's a link for the NHS maps for Arizona. Once there, you can select the map for the Tucson area. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/national_highway_system/nhs_maps/arizona/index.cfm

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Mike

Michael D. Holder P.E.
Engineering Project Manager
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From: Mark Henige <MHenige@azdot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 12:43 PM
To: Paul Casertano <PCasertano@pagregion.com>; Mike Holder <MHolder@pagregion.com>
Cc: Lisa Pounds <LPounds@azdot.gov>
Subject: FW: EFFECTIVE December 3, 2018; INFORMATION: 23 CFR 625 Design Standards Final Rule Published

Good afternoon,

Please see the email below dated November 6, 2018 from the FHWA published the Final Rule to Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 625 - Use of the updated standards will be required for all NHS projects authorized to proceed with design activities on or after **December 3, 2018**. All projects authorized prior to this date may continue to use the previously adopted standards or update to the new standards.

Please be advised ADOT is currently not compliant and are in process of resolving this matter. Please confirm if PAG has standards that have been updated and/or are compliant with the following:

- Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, 6th Edition, AASHTO, 2013, including 2015 Interim Revisions

- LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, 1st Edition, AASHTO, 2015, with 2017 and 2018 Interim Revisions

Please contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your response.

Mark Henige
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From: Lisa Pounds
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:06 PM
To: 'warren.white@chandleraz.gov'
Subject: FW: EFFECTIVE December 3, 2018; INFORMATION: 23 CFR 625 Design Standards Final Rule Published

From: Chan, Eunice (FHWA)
Sent: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 4:32 PM
To: David Benton <DBenton@azdot.gov>; Steve Boschen <SBoschen@azdot.gov>; Maysa Hanna <MHanna@azdot.gov>; David Eberhart <DEberhart@azdot.gov>; Michael DenBleyker <MDenBleyker@azdot.gov>; Reed Henry <DHenry@azdot.gov>; Brent Cain <BCain@azdot.gov>; LPounds@azdot.gov; Steve O'Brien <SO'Brien@azdot.gov>; Julie Kliewer <JKliewer@azdot.gov>; Jesus Sandoval-Gil <JSandoval-Gil@azdot.gov>; Todd A. Emery <TEmery@azdot.gov>
Cc: Deitering, Thomas (FHWA) <thomas.deitering@dot.gov>; Brown, Jennifer (FHWA) <jennifer.brown@dot.gov>; Stillings, Ed (FHWA) <ed.stillings@dot.gov>; Amjad Alzubi <AAlzubi@azdot.gov>
Subject: EFFECTIVE December 3, 2018; INFORMATION: 23 CFR 625 Design Standards Final Rule Published

The Final Rule for 23 CFR 625 becomes effective for all NHS projects authorized for PE on or after 12/3/18. See notice below:

DUE DATE: EFFECTIVE December 3, 2018

The FHWA published the Final Rule to Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 625 (attached) in the Federal Register on November 1, 2018 [Docket No. FHWA-2017-0001 or <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2018-23821> r]. Use of the updated standards will be required for all NHS projects authorized to proceed with design activities on or after **December 3, 2018**. All projects authorized prior to this date may continue to use the previously adopted standards or update to the new standards.

Background: The rule modifies regulations governing new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing (except for maintenance resurfacing), restoration, and rehabilitation projects on the NHS (including the Interstate system), by incorporating by reference the current versions of design standards and standard specifications previously adopted and incorporated by reference under 23 CFR 625.4, and removing the outdated or superseded versions of these standards and specifications. These design standards and standard specifications were established by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and in most cases, prior editions were previously adopted by FHWA through rulemaking.

The regulation revisions include referencing current versions of:

- A Policy on Design Standards - Interstate System, AASHTO, 2016
- AASHTO LRFD Bridge Construction Specifications, 4th Edition, AASHTO, 2017
- AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, 8th Edition, AASHTO, 2017
- AASHTO LRFD Movable Highway Bridge Design Specifications, 2nd Edition, AASHTO, 2007, including 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015 Interim Revisions
- AASHTO/AWS D1.5M/D1.5: 2015 Bridge Welding Code, 7th Edition, AASHTO, 2016, including 2018 Interim Revisions
- Standard Specifications for Transportation Materials and Methods of Sampling and Testing, and AASHTO Provisional Standards, AASHTO, 2017
- Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, 6th Edition, AASHTO, 2013, including 2015 Interim Revisions
- LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, 1st Edition, AASHTO, 2015, with 2017 and 2018 Interim Revisions

One clarification should be noted about the last two references in the list above. The FHWA revised §625.4(b)(7) to incorporate by reference two alternative specifications applicable to the structural design of supports for highway signs, luminaires, and traffic signals. **States DOTs must choose one of these alternative specifications to perform the design, fabrication, and erection of these types of structures.** The first alternative is the most current version of the revised AASHTO specification entitled Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Sign, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, 6th Edition, and includes 2013 and 2015 Interim Revisions. The second alternative specification is AASHTO's LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals, 1st Edition, and includes 2015, 2017, and 2018 Interim Revisions. While the LRFD specification is a more comprehensive, improved specification that reflects the latest research and knowledge, the agency has determined that design pursuant to either specification provides for safe and reliable structural supports for highways signs, luminaries, and traffic signals. In the future, the Standard Specifications will be phased out, but no timeline for this transition has been established.

Exceptions to standards should continue to be handled in accordance with the May 5, 2016 guidance at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/design/standards/160505.cfm> and Stewardship and Oversight agreements in each State.

Attached are slides summarizing the changes to the Interstate Standards, along with the Federal Register publication of the final rule. Please let me know if there are any questions with implementation of these updated standards.

Thanks,
Eunice

Ph: (602) 382-8965

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