

# Part V: Highway Infrastructure and Assets

## Chapter 4: Structures

Updated 14/4/26

### 4.1 Specification

4.1.1 All highway works must normally be in accordance with the Specification for Highway Works (SHW) published as part of the Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works (MCHW), together with the relevant Instructions for Specifiers (IfS) and any applicable national or local amendments and comply with the Highway Authority's specification and standard drawings. Where these vary from the Specification for Highway Works, the Highway Authority's documents shall prevail. Where proposals are not covered by the standard drawings, scheme-specific drawings shall be submitted for agreement. References to national standards are to the versions current at the time of submission unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Highway Authority.

### 4.2 Definition

4.2.1 Highway related structures will normally include bridges, tunnels, retaining walls, corrugated-steel buried structures, reinforced soil and anchored earth structures, reinforced clay brickwork retaining walls of pocket-type and grouted-cavity construction, crib wall retaining walls of concrete or timber construction, environmental barriers (including noise barriers and fencing), and all drains, piped and box culverts, sewers and drainage structures, other than bridges, that have a diameter or clear span of more than 900mm.

4.2.2 A highway related structure is either any structure built in, under, or over, the highway; or any retaining wall or structure which supports the highway and where the structure, or any retaining wall is built within 3.65m of the highway boundary where the retained height above the adjacent highway is 1.4m, or more, S167 Highways Act 1980.

**Note:** The definition of 'highway' used above includes the carriageway, footway and all verges.

### 4.3 Design

4.3.1 All highway related structures, whether the Highway Authority is to adopt them or not, must be designed and constructed in accordance with the current relevant codes of practice and technical memoranda. The design will be subject to the technical-approval procedure set out in the Department for Transport Design Manual for Roads and Bridges 'CG 300 Technical approval of highway structures' except that the Technical Approval Authority will be the Highway Authority.

4.3.2 You must employ a chartered civil or structural engineer with experience in highway structures and approved by the Highway Authority to carry out the design and oversee construction.

4.3.3 Before construction begins, you must provide a programme of supervision for agreement by the Highway Authority. The programme must give details of the level and amount of supervision that will be provided so the Highway Authority is confident that the structure will be built in accordance with the design and specification. The programme must also contain proposals for materials testing.

4.3.4 At regular intervals, the Highway Authority will audit the supervision of a scheme to make sure that you are meeting the agreed programme of supervision. However, it is the developer's responsibility to keep the Highway Authority informed of the proposed programme. Before adoption, you must give the Highway

Authority copies of approved design calculations (if not already received), inspection certificates, material-testing certificates, digital photographs in an agreed electronic format, as-built drawings preferably in an electronic form, (for example PDF file), maintenance manuals and a Construction Compliance Certificate in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. This information should be submitted in advance of a request for a final certificate of completion to the Highway Authority (full adoption certificate). Failure to accord to the approved design and insufficient collation of the required evidence will jeopardise the ability of the highway Authority to adopt structures.

4.3.5 You will have to pay the additional design checking and inspection fees for any highway structure. This is charged at 'actual' rate. The Highway Authority will give you an indication of the likely fee at the earliest opportunity. You must pay a commuted sum for future maintenance of any highway structure to be adopted.

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