Deputy Directive

Number:	DD-12-R1
Refer to Director's Policy:	DP-15-R-1 U.S. Customary (English) Units
Effective Date:	October 2006
Supersedes:	DD-12 (08-25-93) Metrication

TITLE International System (Metric) to U.S. Customary System (English) Transition

POLICY

The California Department of Transportation (Department) has adopted the use of English units as its preferred system of units and measures. The transition to the English system is to be accomplished efficiently, minimizing impacts on project delivery. Projects on the State Highway System advertised after June 30, 2007, regardless of funding source, shall utilize the English system of units and measures unless granted an exception.

DEFINITION/BACKGROUND

Deputy Directive 12, "Metrication," was adopted to comply with the federal 1988 Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act and the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Metric Conversion Plan, which was approved on October 31, 1991. The federal law and the FHWA Metric Conversion Plan required all State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) Metric conversion activities to begin in Fiscal Year 1992 and to be completed by October 1996. The FHWA Metric Conversion Plan mandated that DOTs convert all manuals, publications, and standards to the Metric system, and all federally funded construction projects advertised after September 30, 1996, be designed utilizing Metric. Accordingly, the Department adopted the Metric system in 1993.

In 1995, the National Highway System Designation Act postponed the FHWA Metric Conversion Plan mandate. However, by 1995, the Department had made significant progress and had expended substantial resources towards completing the Metric conversion effort. A business decision was made to continue to meet the FHWA Metric Conversion Plan mandate.

In 1999, the Department's Metric policy was changed to allow the use of dual units (English and Metric) on encroachment permit projects. In 2002, the Department published a dual unit version of the Standard Plans, Standard Specifications, and Standard Special Provisions for use by local agencies on projects located off the State Highway System.

In July 2003, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) conducted a survey of State DOTs regarding the system of units used for the design and construction of projects in their state. In response to the AASHTO survey, and other feedback received from the Department's transportation customers and partners, it was decided to adopt the English system of units and measures.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputy Director, Project Delivery:

- Oversees the Department's transition to the English system of units and measures.
- Ensures that projects using Metric units are efficiently phased out of the Department's delivery plan.
- Establishes an exception process to review projects proposed to be delivered after June 30, 2007 utilizing Metric units.

Chief, Division of Design:

- Coordinates with other State and Federal agencies and others to ensure an efficient transition to the English system of units and measures.
- Decides appropriate course of action related to appeals to project exception decisions made by the Metric to English Project Manager.

Chief, Division of Local Assistance:

- Coordinates with local agencies and others to ensure an efficient transition to the English system of units and measures.

All Division Chiefs:

- Implements, within their authority, the decision to transition to the English system of units and measures.

Project Manager, Metric to English Transition:

- Manages and facilitates the Department's implementation of the Metric to English transition.
- Reviews and approves, as appropriate, project exceptions to continue the use of the Metric system.

Metric to English Transition Team:

- Develops and disseminates, as necessary, Metric to English transition information and guidance.

District Directors:

- Implements, within their authority, the decision to transition to the English system of units and measures.
- Coordinates with local agencies and other external partners within their jurisdiction to ensure an efficient transition to the English system of units and measures.

Project Development Teams:

- Coordinates with all project sponsors and partners to ensure an efficient transition to the English system of units and measures.
- Recommends the system of units and measures to be used on a project-by-project basis.

Employees:

- Support the Department's efforts to implement a timely and efficient transition to the English system of units and measures.

APPLICABILITY

All departmental employees.

Randell H. Iwasaki

RANDELL H. IWASAKI
Chief Deputy Director

September 26, 2006
Date Signed