



SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
P.O. BOX 191
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29202

September 12, 1990

MEMORANDUM TO DESIGN GROUP LEADERS & CONSULTANTS

Subject: Concrete Cover for Reinforcing Steel

The tolerances for bending stirrups and ties as given in the CRSI Manual of Standard Practice allow the stirrups or ties to be up to 1 inch larger than the detailed dimensions depending on the bar size and overall length. In order to provide the minimum concrete cover when stirrups and ties are bent to dimensions exceeding the plan details but still within allowable tolerances, the minimum concrete cover detailed on the plans shall be the minimum specified in Section 8.22.1 of the AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges plus one half inch. Specifically, where stirrups and ties are used the minimum concrete cover for concrete exposed to earth or weather shall be:

- Primary reinforcing..... 2 1/2 inches
- Stirrups, ties and spirals..... 2 inches

It should be noted that the concrete cover dimensions specified above are minimums and should be increased based on conditions of exposure and any design criteria established for a particular project.

In order that the construction inspector may know what the minimum acceptable concrete cover is after placement of the reinforcing, the following note will be added to the standard note sheet: "The minimum acceptable concrete cover for reinforcing steel may be one half inch less than the plan dimensions when required by reinforcing bar fabrication tolerances." A half size copy of the revised standard note sheet is enclosed for Consultants and FHWA.

The requirements of this memorandum should be incorporated into all plans now in the plan preparation stage.

B.A. Meetze, Jr.
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Bridge Design Engineer

Enclosure

cc:

- FHWA, Structural Engineer
- R. E. LaBoone
- R. L. Kneece
- R. W. Rush
- BAM/RLK/ddg

- J. E. Martin
- Design Group Leaders
- Consultants