

Design Standards Letter

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Section/Plan No.: None

Subject: Ranking Order of Contract Documents

Body

ALL DIVISION AND DISTRICT ENGINEERS"

It has been brought to our attention that there may be some question in the ranking order of contract documents.

Specifically, and by definition in the Standard Specifications, the following items are listed in their order of rank:

JOB SPECIAL PROVISIONS

GENERAL SPECIAL PROVISIONS

PLANS

SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

It is important to note that, although the Blue Package of General Special Provisions are generally approved Supplemental Specifications by Department internal definition, there are in fact no Supplemental Specifications in contracts at this point in time. This means that the Blue Package of General Special Provisions takes precedence over the plans. A simple note on the plans which always takes precedence over Supplemental Specifications and Standard Specifications will not take precedence over either Job Special Provisions or General Special Provisions. The only way that a General Special Provision can be revised is by writing a Job Special Provision setting out the desired requirements.

Based on this order of precedence, it is important that Job Special Provisions and notes on plans be carefully considered such that the proper ranking order is maintained.

James F. Roberts
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