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Transport Infrastructure Ireland

TII Publications

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Departures from Standards and Specification

GE-GEN-01005

October 2016

GE General

Standards

About TII

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is responsible for managing and improving the country's national road and light rail networks.

About TII Publications

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Document Attributes

Each document within TII Publications has a range of attributes associated with it, which allows for efficient access and retrieval of the document from the website. These attributes are also contained on the inside cover of each current document, for reference.

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TII Publications



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Contents

1. Implementation.....	1
2. Definitions.....	2
3. Departures	3
4. Submitting a Departure.....	4
5. Departure Decision Process	7
6. Details Required.....	8
7. Electronically Submitted Departures.....	9
Appendix A:	1
Departure Application Form.....	1
Appendix B:	1
Departure Application Checklist.....	1
Appendix C:	2
Tender Comparison Table	2

Contents Table

1.	Implementation.....	1
2.	Definitions.....	2
3.	Departures	3
4.	Submitting a Departure.....	4
4.1	Preliminary Design.....	4
4.2	Minor Improvement Schemes.....	4
4.3	Tender Stage	5
4.4	Construction Phase	5
5.	Departure Decision Process	7
6.	Details Required.....	8
7.	Electronically Submitted Departures.....	9
	Appendix A:	1
	Departure Application Form.....	1
	Appendix B:	1
	Departure Application Checklist.....	1
	Appendix C:	2
	Tender Comparison Table	2

1. Implementation

This Standard shall be known as GE-GEN-01005 Departures from Standards and Specification, and used for the design of all roads affected by National Road Schemes.

The October 2016 update includes changes to the numbering of TII Publication documents as a result of the new TII Publications website. Other changes include a revised Tender Departure Process.

All Departures from Standard shall be submitted by or on behalf of the Road Authority. Departures will not be given for National Road Schemes that are not compliant with current DOECLG access policy to National Roads. If this Standard is to be used for the design of Regional and Local Road Schemes, the Designer shall agree with the relevant Road Authority the extent to which the document is appropriate in any particular situation.

During development of the design; the Designer may seek a Departure from Standard where it can be shown that the safety of the user, operational effectiveness and design life are not compromised.

2. Definitions

National Road Schemes: All works on National Roads that involve new road construction or permanent change to the existing road layout promoted by TII, a Road Authority or others.

Employer: The organisation managing the various phases of scheme preparation and supervision of construction or as defined in the Contract.

Employer's Representative: The Engineer or other person appointed by the Employer as its representative in accordance with the Works Contract.

Designer: The Design Team undertaking the various phases of scheme preparation or supervision of construction.

The Applicant: The Designer at the particular phase of the scheme when the departure is required.

Overseeing Organisation: For National Road Schemes the Overseeing Organisation is TII. Where the scheme is not on a National Road, then the appropriate overseeing organisation shall be substituted for TII.

Approved Departure: An approved Departure shall be considered as meeting TII's requirements for that element of the works, provided that any mitigation measures proposed by the designer or conditional to that approval are also incorporated into the design and works.

Refused Departure: Where the decision of TII is that the Departure proposed is unacceptable.

Rejected Departure: Where insufficient, inappropriate or contradictory information has been submitted as part of the Departure Application. Further information may be required and it is not possible to form a conclusive decision to Approve or Refuse the application.

Minor Improvement Scheme: As defined in DN-GEO-03030 Guidance on Minor Improvements to National Roads.

3. Departures

A Departure from Standard shall mean any of the following:

- a) A Departure from any of the mandatory requirements of TII Publications (Standards);
- b) The use of technical design standards and/or specifications other than those in TII Publications (Standards);
- c) The use of a set of requirements or additional criteria for any aspect of the Works for which requirements are not defined in the Contract;
- d) The use of a technical design standard or technical specification in a manner or circumstance which is not permitted or provided for in such directive or specification;
- e) A combination of any of the criteria specified above.

While the Approval of a Departure shall be considered as meeting TII's requirements for that element of the works (provided that any mitigation measures proposed by the designer or conditional to that approval are also incorporated into the design and works), the following should be noted with respect to Approved Departures:

- a) The approval of an application in no way precludes TII from requesting that certain safety measures be carried out at a future date in relation to the approvals given.
- b) The approval of a Departure, with or without comments, does not imply that TII relieves the designer of any responsibility for the design;
- c) Departures are approved on a location-specific basis and relate to the particular circumstances identified in each submission. A similar Departure approval may be quoted to support a new application, but each case will be considered on its own merits;
- d) TII may allow "bulk" Departures (when the same non-standard method or material is proposed for use at more than one location) in certain, clearly defined circumstances.

The following are variations that are not considered as constituting a Departure from Standard:

- a) Suggestions/Recommendations within TII Publications (Standards);
- b) Relaxations – these need to be recorded in the Departures Report, but a formal application does not need to be completed.

4. Submitting a Departure

All Departures, are to be digitally inputted on the TII Web-based Departures Database at <http://www.tiipublications.ie>. Applicants are required to pre-register by email to infoDEPS@tii.ie prior to inputting Departures. Applicants shall be one named individual working on behalf of the Designer for the applicable stage of the road scheme.

Applicants should allow a **minimum** of three weeks from receipt of applications by TII to notification of decision. This will take longer for larger schemes with a large number of applications – especially during the Design & Build (D&B)/Public Private Procurement (PPP) Tender process where there may be multiple sets of Departure requests. The time taken to assess Departures will depend on the number of applications; the quality of information submitted and scheme priority. Accordingly, applications should be submitted as early as possible so as to avoid delays.

If a scheme with a large number of applications is to be submitted, then advance notice should be sent to the TII Publications (Standards) Section (infoDEPS@tii.ie) in order that the applications can be dealt with as swiftly as possible. In the case of D&B or PPP schemes, information contained in the Contract Documents regarding the submission of Departures should be forwarded to the TII Publications (Standards) Section for information (this applies in particular to the timetable for submission of Departures during the tendering process).

4.1 Preliminary Design

Preliminary Design Departures are to be submitted to TII on the TII Web-based Departures Database a minimum of two months prior to incorporation into the design, and well in advance of the finalisation of the landtake line for Statutory Planning Procedures/Tender Stage. Preliminary Design Departures submitted after the date of statutory process may infringe on lands outside of the CPO and will be considered on merit only.

When the designer proposes to specify Works Requirements that require the approval of a Departure from TII Publications (Standards) then these should be applied for and obtained before incorporation into the Contract Documents.

4.2 Minor Improvement Schemes

DN-GEO-03030 includes design principles and requirements for Urban Schemes, Minor Improvement Schemes and Road Safety Improvement Schemes. An important requirement of DN-GEO-03030 is the preparation of a Preliminary Design Report, including reference to Relaxations and Departures from TII Publications (Standards). Refer to DN-GEO-03030 for confirmation of all information to be contained within such Preliminary Design Reports.

All proposed Relaxations and Departures for schemes prepared using DN-GEO-03030 shall be identified by the relevant Road Authority and organised as one single Departure application for each scheme (excluding departures relating to TII Publications which shall be submitted separately to TII for approval as appropriate). This single Departure shall be submitted to TII through the TII Departures Database for approval, as with all Departures as per the requirements of this standard.

The DN-GEO-03030 Preliminary Design Report (in draft form) shall form part of the Departure application and shall be submitted as an attachment to the Departure application. The draft DN-GEO-03030 Preliminary Design Report shall separately be sent to the TII Inspector for the scheme.

Both the single Departure application and the draft DN-GEO-03030 Preliminary Design Report shall be submitted to TII through the TII Web-based Departures Database a minimum of **two months prior** to incorporation into the final design, and well in advance of the finalisation of the landtake line for Statutory Planning Procedures/Tender Stage. Departures under DN-GEO-03030 submitted after the date of statutory process may infringe on lands outside of the CPO and will be considered on merit only.

The TII Publications (Standards) Section will Approve, Refuse or Reject all Departures submitted to TII through the TII Departures Database. The TII Publications (Standards) Section may also **refuse** the draft DN-GEO-03030 Preliminary Design Report if the draft DN-GEO-03030 Preliminary Design Report, and corresponding Departures, are not considered to comply with the requirements of DN-GEO-03030.

All Departures relating to TII Publications shall be submitted separately to TII for approval as appropriate.

4.3 Tender Stage

During the D&B Tender Process, Tender Stage Departures are **not** to be entered onto the TII Web-based Departures Database. Instead, an email **including the Word version of the departure applications**, drawings, calculations and any other relevant information of all the departure applications should be emailed to both the Employer's Representative and the TII Publications (Standards) Section (infoDEPS@tii.ie).

A corresponding hardcopy of the Departure applications, including drawings, calculations and any other relevant information, are also to be submitted as follows:

- Cover letter with **1 full set** of Departures applications, including a hardcopy print of the Departure Application Forms to the **Employer's Representative**;

The Employer's Representative prepares comments on the Tenderer's Departure applications using the Tender Comparison Table attached in Appendix C and forwards these to the TII Publications (Standards) Section (infoDEPS@tii.ie) within 7 days of receipt of the reports.

During the Tender Phase, a PDF copy of the decision will be emailed to the Employer's Representative as appropriate. The Employer's Representative shall confirm the decision of TII to the applicant, the Road Authority and the TII Engineering Inspector as appropriate.

4.4 Construction Phase

Construction Departures are to be digitally inputted on the TII Web-based Departures Database at <http://www.tiipublications.ie> by the Contractor.

During the Construction Phase, a PDF copy of the application will be emailed directly by the web-based database to the Employer's Representative as appropriate.

A corresponding hardcopy of the Departure applications, including drawings, calculations and any other relevant information, are also to be submitted by the Contractor to the **Employer's Representative**.

The Employer's Representative shall prepare comments on the Applicant's Departure applications and forwards these comments to infoDEPS@tii.ie within 7 days of receipt of the reports. All comments are to relate to the Contractors Reference number as well as the TII Web-based Database reference number.

During the Construction Phase, a PDF copy of the decision will be emailed to the Employer's Representative as appropriate. The Employer's Representative shall confirm the decision of TII to the applicant, the Road Authority and the TII Engineering Inspector as appropriate.

Departures will be processed as quickly as possible during the Construction Stage/Detailed Design; however, as in all cases, a minimum of three weeks should be allowed for processing of applications.

5. Departure Decision Process

The decision of TII in relation to each Departure Application may be to:

- Approve the Departure;
- Refuse the Departure; or
- Reject the Departure.

All departures are submitted to the relevant section of TII for comments and shall be processed as appropriate. All queries relating to the current departures are to be emailed to infoDEPS@tii.ie.

All comments/recommendations are recorded in the database and approval and refusal numbers are assigned as appropriate and are digitally sent to the applicant via the TII web-based database.

Approvals, once issued electronically, are deemed to have been signed by the TII Director of Professional Services.

6. Details Required

The following details shall as a minimum be included in all Departure reports:

- **A short description of the scheme**, including details of the type of contract, the stage the scheme is at and other background information. The outcome of any Safety Audits and Statutory Processes should also be detailed if applicable. For schemes prepared using DN-GEO-03030, the Preliminary Design Report shall form part of the Departure application (see section 4).
- **Road Authority agreement**: If a third party is submitting a proposed departure, details of the Road Authority's agreement to the proposed departure, and to it being submitted on the Road Authority's behalf, should be submitted.
- **A Departure Application Form** (as printed from the Departures Website for each individual application). The application should contain sufficient detail to enable a recommendation to be made on the application. It is particularly important that the 'Justification' section is fully completed, and a detailed reason given why the Departure is being sought. If alternative designs have been considered in order to avoid the Departure, these should be outlined. Proposed compensatory measures should also be outlined where applicable.
- **A detailed drawing for each Departure showing plan and long section** (in all cases), so geometric details can be ascertained. This drawing should also show (with dotted lines or different colours) how the area of the scheme would look if the correct standards were applied. The drawing should clearly show the scale used. This enables the reviewer to see the difference between standard and sub-standard design and to understand more clearly the justification for the Departure.
- **Drawing(s) of the entire scheme** (at min scale of 1:10000), so the reviewer can see how the Departure fits in with the overall scheme.
- **Contact details** for the Employer's Representative and/or who to contact for further information.
- If an application does not contain sufficient information for assessment, then the Departure will be returned to the applicant, and a subsequent time-frame for assessment cannot be guaranteed. A 'Departure Application Checklist' has been provided in **Appendix B** which should be completed and returned with the Departures Report.
- The authority's book.

7. Electronically Submitted Departures

Where required that Departures are to be submitted electronically, the TII web-based database will be the only mechanism for processing of these departures.

Global co-ordinates shall be included for each separate element included in an electronically submitted Departure, where the most appropriate point along the length of each element is located by co-ordinates, or in the case of scheme-wide Departures, the start chainage for the works on the designed centre-line of the road.

Appendix A:

Departure Application Form

Application for a Departure from the TII Design Manual for Roads and Bridges during the Tender Stage Only

<i>General Information:</i>		
Route:	Scheme:	Contract Type: <i>(e.g. PPP /D&B/ Traditional)</i>
Design Speed	Traffic Flow and Composition (if applicable):	
Carriageway Type/Cross Section		

<i>Applicant Information:</i>	
Applicant Name:	Contact Person and Contact Details:
Applicants Departure Reference No.	

<i>Departure Information:</i>
Departure Location and Chainage:
Departure Category <i>(e.g. Road Design, Structures etc.)</i>
Departure Type <i>(e.g. Horizontal Geometry, Vertical Geometry, Cross Section, etc.)</i>
Standard Required by TII Publications
Standard Provided
Departure Justification
Other Departures or Relaxations at same location

TII Publication References:	
Standard Reference (e.g. CC-SPW-00100 etc):	Standard Paragraph/Table/Figure:
Additional Information and Supporting Documentation List:	

Appendix B:

Departure Application Checklist

General:		Yes/No
Has the Cover Sheet for the Departure Report been completed?		
Is it clear who the Employer is and who the official response should issue to?		
Has sufficient background information been given to ascertain the stage the scheme is at?		
Have any time constraints regarding receiving a decision on the application been outlined?		
Has the Road Authority been consulted?		
Application:		Yes/No
Has an individual application form been completed for each Departure?		
Have the application form(s) been submitted via the TII Web-based Database to the TII Project Manager (Engineering Standards) to speed up the database input process?		
Has a plan and longitudinal section been provided for each geometry Departure?		
Does the drawing show how the area of the scheme would look should the correct standard be applied?		
Does the justification give sufficient information for a person not familiar with the scheme to be able to make a recommendation?		
Have any alternatives considered been outlined and shown on the drawings submitted?		
Have possible mitigation measures been outlined?		
D&B/PPP Schemes:		Yes/No
Has the tendering timetable been submitted to the TII Project Manager (Engineering Standards)?		
Has the full set been submitted to the TII Project Manager (Engineering Standards)?		
Have the structures Departures (Volume 2) been submitted directly to TII Structures Section?		
Has the Employer's Representative commented on all applications?		

Appendix C: Tender Comparison Table

Departure Location & Chainage	Departure Category and Classification	Departure Type	Details	Status	TII Reference	Application Comments	Bidder 1 (B1)	Bidder 2 (B2)	Bidder 3 (B3)	Bidder 4 (B4)	Bidder 5 (B5)	Specimen Design
<i>e.g.</i> Mainline and associated side roads	Drainage	Thermoplastic Structured Wall Pipes (HAPAS 02/H068)	HAPAS Cert 02/H068			This application is recommended for APPROVAL for pipes and fittings other than those included in Table 5/2 provided that they hold a current Irish (or British) Agrément Board Roads and Bridges Certificate (or equivalent) stating that they are a suitable alternative for the usage specified in Table 5/2. They shall comply with all other requirements of Series 500 and with the standards and particular requirements therein and be of 100mm internal diameter unless otherwise described.	Applicants Reference	SpecDes_D01				
Whole Scheme	Pavement	Reduction of PSV in HRA	PSV=40			This application is recommended for REFUSAL as a reduction in PSV has implications for skid resistance and cannot be considered.			Applicants Reference			



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