

CITY OF NANAIMO

**MANUAL OF ENGINEERING
STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS**



Edition No. 15
(REVISED JUNE 2026)

ENGINEERING STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

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0.01 **INTRODUCTION**

- .1 This Manual of Engineering Standards & Specifications (MoESS), also referenced as Schedule A in the *Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw*, reflects the design requirements, material specifications, and installation requirements for Municipal Works constructed in the [City](#) of Nanaimo. For a list of acceptable products for installation within the [City](#) of Nanaimo, refer to the [City](#) of Nanaimo Approved Products List [\[\]](#). (REVISED JUNE 2026)
- .2 This Manual is intended for use by [City Engineering](#), Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department employees; Qualified Professionals, working for the [City](#) of Nanaimo; private developers and others doing work in the [City](#). (REVISED JUNE 2026)
 - (a) The majority of Manual users are registrants governed by the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) along with their respective professional regulatory bodies, who are working with a [Professional of Record](#). (REVISED JUNE 2026)
- .3 The Manual is divided into fourteen (14) sections.
 - (a) [Section 1](#) covers General Drafting Requirements and provides standards for design drawings, record drawings, certification of installed works and design in statutory rights-of-way, etc. (REVISED JUNE 2026)
 - (b) [Section 2](#) covers the General Definitions and References for the manual, followed by General Requirements covered in [Section 3](#).
 - (c) [Section 4](#) covers excavation, trenching and backfill as it applies to the installation of underground utilities such as water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines, and private utilities installed within statutory rights-of-way and road right-of-way. (REVISED JUNE 2026)
 - (d) [Sections 5, 6 and 7](#) deal with standards for water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer.
 - (e) [Section 8](#) deals with standards for transportation infrastructure. [Section 9](#) covers standards for the roadway structure, the aggregates and granular materials required. [Section 10](#) deals with standards for roadway lighting and traffic signals.

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- (f) Sections 11 and 12 deal with information on requirements for cast in place concrete works as well as asphaltic concrete paving.
 - (g) Section 13 deals with surface treatments, for use in road rights-of-way.
 - (h) Section 14 covers standards for landscaping in **City** streets, including required maintenance.
- .4 The sections on water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, transportation, roadway lighting and traffic signals are divided into three basic parts under the following sub-headings:
- (a) Design Criteria.
 - (b) Specifications.
 - (c) Installation.
- .5 Individually, these sub-headings have a numbering sequence common to each section. Each sub-section or sub-heading has a block of numbers reserved and applied to it.
- .6 The numbers which have been reserved for each sub-section and which would be preceded by the applicable section number are as follows:
- (a) Design Criteria .00 to .19
 - (b) Specifications .20 to .39
 - (c) Installation .40 to .69
- .7 With this method of numbering, the numbering sequence is not continuous from sub-section to sub-section. Some sub-sections do not use all the numbers allotted to them.

0.02 APPLICATION OF THE STANDARDS

- .1 The Manual of Engineering Standards & Specifications (MoESS) applies to **City** of Nanaimo capital projects, works within statutory rights-of-way and dedicated road rights-of-way and works taken over by the **City** of Nanaimo related to private development. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
- (a) In the context of subdivisions, this document is Schedule A in the *Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw*, the associated Works must be in compliance with the bylaw. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - (b) In other applications, there are sections of the Manual where the contracts, designs and construction of the works within the scope of the Manual are to comply with the intent of the Manual and be in conformance to the Design, Specification and Installation Requirements. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*

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- (c) Non-conformance from the requirements of the Manual must be documented and requires **approval** from the **City Engineer**. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - (d) Portions of the MoESS may apply to private property infrastructure where it is a requirement of a service being provided by the City such as, but not limited to, the requirement for cross connection control, standards for private fire hydrant installation, and stormwater management infrastructure. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .2 Where “**approval**” is required by this Manual, such approval shall mean written approval granted by the City Engineer unless otherwise specified. All submissions requesting approval by the City Engineer shall be prepared and submitted by the Professional of Record and shall include all applicable drawings, specifications, calculations, product information and other supporting documentation. Review or approval by the City Engineer shall not relieve the Contractor, the Consultant or the Professional Engineer of responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, coordination, or compliance with this Manual of the design, design drawings or the Works.*(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .3 For the definition of terms used within the Manual, refer to Section 2.01 – Defined Terms **[]**. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .4 For the list of products acceptable for the design within the scope of the Manual, please refer to the **City** of Nanaimo Approved Products List. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - (a) The Approved Product List does not imply automatic **approval** as a product substitution for a contract specified product. Product substitution is subject to the **approval** by the **City Engineer**. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .5 Where the users of this Manual have any doubt as to the meaning or interpretation of any part of the Manual, they are advised to contact Engineering Department (MoESS@nanaimo.ca). *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .6 Reference documents that commonly apply to Works are located as reference resources accessible on the public website that is periodically updated. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .7 For proposed works not covered by the requirements of the Manual, supplementary specifications, product information or other supporting documentation are to be submitted by the **Professional of Record** for **approval** by the **City Engineer**. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
- 0.03 REQUESTS FOR CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS

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- .1 Suggestions for changes to the Manual of Engineering Standards & Specifications are welcomed and are to be directed to the Engineering Department (MoESS@nanaimo.ca). *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .2 Requests for change are to include the number of the section and clause for which a change is requested; suggested new wording and an explanation of the reason for the requested change. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .3 Requests for change are to include red lined mark-ups of the written specifications or standard drawings that are relevant to the suggested change. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .4 Changes are considered at the next update of the Manual, following due process. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
- 0.04 AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDS
- .1 The Manual of Engineering Standards & Specifications are reviewed on a regular basis and amendments issued accordingly. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .2 Amendments and clarifications are published to the [City](#) of Nanaimo's website. *(REVISED JUNE 2026)*
 - .3 For the use of the copy holder, an Amendment Record Sheet has been included at the back of the Manual.