

1-11 ABBREVIATIONS

General Rules For Abbreviations

Abbreviations should not be used where the meaning may be in doubt. In case of doubt, it is best to spell out the word.

In general, it is considered best not to use conventional signs in the text of notes or in the general notes. For example, use 8 cu ft per sec rather than 8 cu ft/sec and 6 lb rather than 6#.

On the General Plan Sheet, avoid abbreviations. On the other sheets, abbreviations may be used if necessary. See Section 1-1.02 of the *Standard Specifications*, Standard Plan A10A, A10B and B0-1 of the *Standard Plans*, and the Appendix A of *Bridge Design Details*. Abbreviations spelling and case must conform to Caltrans standards.

Omission Of Periods

The omission of periods after abbreviations is recommended by the International Committee on Weights and Measures for English Units and is advocated by the American Standards Association Sectional Committee on scientific symbols and abbreviations which are not complete English words. The ASCE follows this practice while many publications do not. For example, 60 cu ft rather than 60 cu. ft.

The omission of periods saves time, labor, and space and does not reduce readability. Abbreviations used in place of complete English words should have periods after them, such as in.(inch), figs.(figure), and no.(number).

Phrases Describing Work Or Materials

When abbreviating a phrase describing work or material, the noun should be spelled out in full. Examples are:

CIDH concrete piles

CIP P/S concrete

AC dike

CL-6 fence

Exceptions are very common items such as PSP and PCC.



Titles And Title Blocks

Spell out all words in titles (i.e., write out: ELEVATION, PLAN, SECTION A-A, etc.) and in title blocks (see examples below).

NOTE: Acceptable abbreviations -- e.g., OC, ST, AVE, etc., permitted when space is limited.

BRIDGE NO.	SMITH AVENUE OVERCROSSING									
POST MILE	GENERAL PLAN									

BRIDGE NO.	CHRISTOPHER BLVD OC									
POST MILE	TYPICAL SECTION									