

Structures over 40 Years Old

There has been some concern expressed for the appropriate interpretation of the Table in Appendix I to the Class EA document as it relates to project type 29 and the requirement to follow a Class B or C approach for structures greater than 40 years of age.

In order to clarify the application of this section of Class EA document as it relates to the classification of structural projects, it is important that there is additional interpretation to clarify the applicability of the relevant portions of Appendix I.

Firstly, the following definitions should apply. According to CSA-S6-00 a bridge is defined as:

“A structure that provides a roadway or walkway for the passage of vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists across an obstruction, gap...and has a span greater than 3 m.”

By contrast a culvert is defined by CAS-S6-00 as:

“A structure that forms an opening through an embankment.”

On the basis of the foregoing definitions it is clear that culverts are a distinct structure type from bridges and the requirements for such works are adequately covered by project types 17 and 18 in Appendix I.

Bridges are an integral portion of the road of which they are a part. It is clear that the intent of project types 1, 19, 20, 23, and 24 in Appendix I is to cover projects which have the intent to reinstate a facility to its prior state and that such projects should be approved without delay. The works should result in a rejuvenated bridge which has all the capabilities of the originally constructed bridge. This would include rehabilitations to existing structures where there is no outwardly obvious difference in character or appearance between the previous and resultant facility.