

Modifying the Manuals

The value of the SUDAS Design and Standard Specifications Manuals is found in the uniformity created from design through construction. Both designers and contractors become familiar with the SUDAS manuals and thus are able to provide cost efficient services.

Because the SUDAS manuals are set up for statewide use, it is understood that individual jurisdictions may modify the standards slightly to match the requirements for their agencies. Although we know it is possible to modify the text within the manuals, the versions are posted online as PDFs as a means of controlling changes to the SUDAS requirements.

The most important element of the contract documents is to communicate with the bidder/contractor. Bidder/contractors who are familiar with the SUDAS Standard Specifications will not review the standard text for changes. Changes within the standard documents may be missed and construction complications are likely. For these reasons, the place to modify the SUDAS Standard Specifications is not within the manual itself. The best method for modifications is through the use of separate supplemental specifications so the bidder/contractor can quickly find those changes as they set up their bids and during construction. The same is true for modifications to the SUDAS Design Manual.

Communicating your project requirements to the contractor is the most important part of a well-done construction project. Thus, communicate properly through the use of supplemental specifications and not modifications within the standard text.