

**Amendment to OPSS 408 (Nov 2010) –  
Construction Specification for  
Adjusting or Rebuilding Maintenance Holes,  
Catch Basins, Ditch Inlets and Valve Chambers**

**OPSS 408.07      CONSTRUCTION**

**OPSS 408.07.08      Adjusting**

Subsection 408.07.08 of OPSS 408 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Where structures are to be extended using bricks, the total height of bricks shall not exceed 300 mm.

All existing mortar and brickwork shall be removed from the top of the existing structures prior to adjusting with precast concrete adjustment units.

Where structures are to be extended using precast concrete adjustment units the total height of adjustment units shall not exceed 300 mm.



**CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION FOR  
ADJUSTING OR REBUILDING MAINTENANCE HOLES,  
CATCH BASINS, DITCH INLETS, AND VALVE CHAMBERS**

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**408.01 SCOPE**

This specification covers the requirements for adjusting or rebuilding maintenance holes, catch basins, ditch inlets, and valve chambers and the installation of safety platforms.

**408.01.01 Specification Significance and Use**

This specification has been developed for use in provincial- and municipal-oriented Contracts. The administration, testing, and payment policies, procedures, and practices reflected in this specification correspond to those used by many municipalities and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Use of this specification or any other specification shall be according to the Contract Documents.

## **408.01.02 Appendices Significance and Use**

Appendices are not for use in provincial contracts as they are developed for municipal use, and then, only when invoked by the Owner.

Appendices are developed for the Owner's use only.

Inclusion of an appendix as part of the Contract Documents is solely at the discretion of the Owner. Appendices are not a mandatory part of this specification and only become part of the Contract Documents as the Owner invokes them.

Invoking a particular appendix does not obligate an Owner to use all available appendices. Only invoked appendices form part of the Contract Documents.

The decision to use any appendix is determined by an Owner after considering their contract requirements and their administrative, payment, and testing procedures, policies, and practices. Depending on these considerations, an Owner may not wish to invoke some or any of the available appendices.

## **408.02 REFERENCES**

When the Contract Documents indicate that provincial-oriented specifications are to be used and there is a provincial-oriented specification of the same number as those listed below, references within this specification to an OPSS shall be deemed to mean OPSS.PROV, unless use of a municipal-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents. When there is not a corresponding provincial-oriented specification, the references below shall be considered to be to the OPSS listed, unless use of a municipal-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents.

When the Contract Documents indicate that municipal-oriented specifications are to be used and there is a municipal-oriented specification of the same number as those listed below, references within this specification to an OPSS shall be deemed to mean OPSS.MUNI, unless use of a provincial-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents. When there is not a corresponding municipal-oriented specification, the references below shall be considered to be the OPSS listed, unless use of a provincial-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents.

This specification refers to the following standards, specifications, or publications:

### **Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications, Construction**

OPSS 402	Excavating, Backfilling, and Compacting for Maintenance Holes, Catch Basins, Ditch Inlets, and Valve Chambers
OPSS 404	Support Systems
OPSS 407	Maintenance Hole, Catch Basis, Ditch Inlet, and Valve Chamber Installation
OPSS 490	Site Preparation for Pipelines, Utilities, and Associated Structures
OPSS 491	Preservation, Protection, and Reconstruction of Existing Facilities
OPSS 492	Site Restoration Following Installation of Pipelines, Utilities, and Associated Structures
OPSS 904	Concrete Structures

## Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications, Material

OPSS 1004	Aggregates - Miscellaneous
OPSS 1301	Cementing Materials
OPSS 1302	Water
OPSS 1350	Concrete - Materials and Production
OPSS 1351	Precast Reinforced Concrete Components for Maintenance Holes, Catch Basins, Ditch Inlets, and Valve Chambers
OPSS 1440	Steel Reinforcement for Concrete
OPSS 1801	Corrugated Steel Pipe Products
OPSS 1850	Frames, Grates, Covers, and Gratings
OPSS 1853	Rubber Adjustment Units for Maintenance Holes, Catch Basins, and Valve Chambers
OPSS 1854	High Density Polyethylene Adjustment Units for Maintenance Holes, Catch Basins, Ditch Inlets, and Valve Chambers

## Canadian Standards Association

W59-03 Welded Steel Construction (Metal Arc Welding)

## Canadian General Standards Board

1.181-99 Ready-Mixed Organic Zinc-Rich Coating

### 408.03 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this specification, the following definitions apply:

**Adjusting** means changing the final grade of the frame with cover or grate on an existing structure,

- a) upwards by the addition of adjustment units, or
- b) downwards by removal of existing adjustment units or bricks and mortar, regardless of the size or type of structure.

**Rebuilding** means changing the final grade of the frame with grate or cover on an existing structure,

- a) upwards by the addition of precast concrete sections, concrete, and adjustment units, or
- b) downwards by the removal of precast concrete sections, concrete, and adjustment units or bricks and mortar, regardless of the size or type of structure.

**Structure** means cast-in-place and precast maintenance holes, catch basins, ditch inlets, and valve chambers, unless noted otherwise.

### 408.05 MATERIALS

#### 408.05.01 Concrete

Concrete for cast-in-place structures shall be according to OPSS 1350, with a nominal minimum 28-day compressive strength of 30 MPa.

**408.05.02 Steel Reinforcement**

Steel bar reinforcement, bar mats, and wire fabric for cast-in-place structures shall be according to OPSS 1440.

**408.05.03 Precast Concrete Components for Maintenance Holes, Catch Basins, Ditch Inlets, and Valve Chambers**

Precast units shall be according to OPSS 1351 and as specified in the Contract Documents.

**408.05.04 Steps and Ladders**

Steps shall be according to OPSS 1351 and as specified in the Contract Documents.

Ladders shall be as specified in the Contract Documents.

**408.05.05 Adjustment Units**

Precast concrete adjustment units shall be according to OPSS 1351.

Rubber adjustment units shall be according to OPSS 1853.

High density polyethylene (HDPE) adjustment units shall be according to OPSS 1854.

**408.05.06 Mortar**

Mortar shall consist of a mixture of one part Portland cement according to OPSS 1301 and three parts mortar sand according to OPSS 1004, wetted with sufficient water to make the mixture plastic. Water shall be according to OPSS 1302.

**408.05.07 Frames With Covers or Grates**

Frames with covers or grates shall be according to OPSS 1850.

**408.05.08 Aluminum Safety Platforms**

Aluminum safety platforms shall be according to OPSS 1351 and as specified in the Contract Documents.

**408.05.09 Joint Seal Systems**

Joint seal systems for precast concrete structures shall be according to OPSS 1351.

**408.05.10 Zinc Rich Paint**

Zinc rich paint shall be according to CAN/CGSB 1.181.

**408.07 CONSTRUCTION**

**408.07.01 General**

The work of adjusting or rebuilding structures shall include the removal and subsequent replacement of the frame with grate or cover.

All structures shall be adjusted or rebuilt plumb, true to alignment and grade, and according to the Contract Documents.

During the progress of the work and until the final acceptance, all structures in service shall be kept clean and free of all extraneous material.

Prior to adjusting or rebuilding a structure, the existing frame with cover or grate shall be carefully removed and salvaged. Suitability of the salvaged frame with cover or grate for reuse shall be determined by the Contract Administrator.

The installation of adjustment units, frames with covers or grates, and precast concrete components shall be according to OPSS 407 and be of the type specified in the Contract Documents.

Additional steps or ladder extensions are required when the distance from the adjusted cover or grate reference elevation to the first step exceeds 450 mm. Additional steps shall be placed according to OPSS 1351.

Alterations to ladders, valve extension stems and boxes, and frost straps shall be as specified in the Contract Documents.

After having been raised, any structure that has a total height of 5.0 m or more shall have a safety platform installed in it. The aluminum safety platforms shall be installed as specified in the Contract Documents.

After adjusting or rebuilding a valve chamber, insulation shall be installed according to manufacturer's recommendations on the roof, wall, or access way of the valve chamber, when specified in the Contract Documents.

#### **408.07.02 Site Preparation**

Site preparation shall be according to OPSS 490.

#### **408.07.03 Preservation and Protection of Existing Facilities**

Preservation and protection of existing facilities shall be according to OPSS 491.

#### **408.07.04 Cold Weather Work**

All work shall be protected from freezing.

#### **408.07.05 Transporting, Unloading, and Storing and Handling**

Manufacturer's recommendations for transporting, unloading, storing, and handling shall be followed.

Materials that are unsound or damaged shall be rejected.

#### **408.07.06 Excavating, Backfilling, and Compacting**

Excavating, backfilling, and compacting for the adjustment or rebuilding of structures shall be according to OPSS 402.

#### **408.07.07 Support Systems**

Support systems shall be according to OPSS 404.

#### **408.07.08 Adjusting**

All existing brickwork and mortar shall be removed from the top of the existing structure. A minimum of one to a maximum of three adjustment units shall be installed on the top of the structure.

When there are adjustment units on an existing structure, adjustment units shall be added or removed as required so when the adjustment is completed there is a minimum of one to a maximum of three adjustment units on the top of the structure prior to placing the frame with grate or cover.

#### **408.07.09 Rebuilding**

##### **408.07.09.01 General**

All existing brickwork and mortar or adjustment units shall be removed from the top of the existing structure.

The completed rebuilt structure shall have a minimum of one to a maximum of three adjustment units on the top of the structure prior to placing the frame with grate or cover.

##### **408.07.09.02 Cast-In-Place Structures**

When the top of the structure is to be lowered, the concrete shall be carefully removed to the required elevation and exposed steel reinforcement shall be cut off as specified in the Contract Documents. The upper section of the structure shall then be rebuilt to its original configuration using cast-in-place concrete and steel reinforcement as specified in the Contract Documents.

To raise the top of structures with a tapered upper section, the concrete in the structure shall be removed for the entire depth of the taper. The upper section, including straight walls and taper shall then be rebuilt to the original configuration using cast-in-place concrete and steel reinforcement as specified in the Contract Documents.

To raise the top of straight walled structures, the existing roof section, if any, shall be removed. The existing walls shall then be extended upward and the roof section rebuilt to the original configuration using cast-in-place concrete and steel reinforcement as specified in the Contract Documents.

When cast-in-place units are to be raised or lowered with cast-in-place concrete, the top surface of all existing walls shall be roughened and a bonding agent shall be applied to the joint before the walls are extended upwards.

Concrete shall be placed according to OPSS 904.

All inside wall protuberances shall be removed once the forms are stripped.

##### **408.07.09.03 Precast Concrete Structures**

Where precast concrete structures having either a tapered or flat slab top section are to be raised or lowered, the top section shall be carefully removed and salvaged and riser sections of suitable height shall be carefully removed from, substituted for, or added to the existing riser sections. The top section shall then be replaced. All of the above work shall be performed according to OPSS 407.

The procedure described for lowering a cast-in-place structure shall be followed as an alternative to the method described above for lowering a precast structure.

##### **408.07.10 Restoration**

Restoration shall be according to OPSS 492.

##### **408.07.11 Management of Excess Material**

Management of excess material shall be according to the Contract Documents.

**408.09 MEASUREMENT FOR PAYMENT**

**408.09.01 Actual Measurement**

**408.09.01.01 Adjusting or Rebuilding Maintenance Holes, Catch Basins, Ditch Inlets, and Valve Chambers**

For measurement purposes, a count shall be made of the number of structures adjusted or rebuilt.

**408.09.01.02 Installation of Safety Platforms**

For measurement purposes, a count shall be made of the number of safety grates installed.

**408.09.02 Plan Quantity Measurement**

When measurement is by Plan Quantity, such measurement shall be based on the units shown in the clauses under Actual Measurement.

**408.10 BASIS OF PAYMENT**

- 408.10.01 Adjusting Maintenance Holes - Item**
- Rebuilding Maintenance Holes - Item**
- Adjusting Catch Basins - Item**
- Rebuilding Catch Basins - Item**
- Adjusting Ditch Inlets - Item**
- Rebuilding Ditch Inlets - Item**
- Adjusting Valve Chambers - Item**
- Rebuilding Valve Chambers - Item**
- Installation of Safety Platforms - Item**

Payment at the Contract price for the above tender items shall be full compensation for all labour, Equipment, and Material to do the work.



**Appendix 408-A, November 2007  
FOR USE WHILE DESIGNING MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS**

**Note:** This is a non-mandatory Commentary Appendix intended to provide information to a designer, during the design stage of a contract, on the use of the OPS specification in a municipal contract. This appendix does not form part of the standard specification. Actions and considerations discussed in this appendix are for information purposes only and do not supersede an Owner's design decisions and methodology.

**Designer Action/Considerations**

The designer should specify the following in the Contract Documents:

- Material requirements for:
  - Precast units. (408.05.03)
  - Steps and ladders. (408.05.04)
  - Aluminum safety platforms. (408.05.08)
- Adjustment and rebuilding requirements. (408.07.01)
- Use of high density polyethylene or rubber adjustment units. (408.07.01)
- Alterations to ladders, valve extension stems and boxes, and frost straps. (408.07.01)
- Installation of:
  - Aluminium safety platforms. (408.07.01)
  - Valve chamber insulation. (408.07.01)
- Cut-off of exposed steel reinforcement. (408.07.09.02)
- Concrete and steel placement requirements. (408.07.09.02)

The designer should consider determining the number of salvageable frames with covers or grates. If there are frames with covers or grates that are not suitable for salvage, then an item should be added to the Contract Documents to ensure there are a sufficient number of new frames with covers or grates to fill the contract needs.

The designer should ensure that the General Conditions of Contract and the 100 Series General Specifications are included in the Contract Documents.

**Related Ontario Provincial Standard Drawings**

OPSD 400.001	Hoisting Hook Rib for Cast Iron Frames for Catch Basins, Maintenance Holes, and Valve Chambers
OPSD 400.010 to 400.120	Cast Iron Catch Basin Frames With Grates
OPSD 401.010 to 401.060	Cast Iron Maintenance Hole Frames With Covers
OPSD 402.010 to 402.021	Cast Iron Valve Chamber Frames With Covers
OPSD 403.010	Galvanized Steel Honey Comb Grating for Ditch Inlets
OPSD 404.020 to 404.022	Aluminum Safety Platforms
OPSD 405.010 to 405.020	Maintenance Hole Steps
OPSD 610.010 to 610.030	Catch Basin Frame With Grate Installation
OPSD 701.010 to 701.015	Precast Concrete Maintenance Holes, 1,200 to 3,600 mm in Diameter
OPSD 701.030 to 701.081	Precast Concrete Maintenance Hole Components, 1,200 to 3,600 mm in Diameter
OPSD 701.100	Frost Strap Installation

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OPSD 702.040 to 702.050	Precast Concrete Ditch Inlet Maintenance Hole
OPSD 703.011 to 703.015	Precast Concrete Single Inlet Flat Cap, 1,500 to 3,600 mm in Diameter
OPSD 703.021 to 703.024	Precast Concrete Twin Inlet Flat Cap, 1,500 to 3,000 mm in Diameter
OPSD 704.010 to 704.011	Maintenance Hole, Catch Basin, and Valve Chamber Adjustment Units
OPSD 705.010 to 705.020	Precast Concrete Catch Basins
OPSD 705.030 to 705.040	Precast Concrete Ditch Inlets
OPSD 706.010 to 706.041	Precast Concrete Ditch Inlets Types A and B with 1,500 to 3,000 mm Diameter Flat Cap
OPSD 1100.010	Cast-In-Place Chamber for Valves Up to 350 mm Dia.
OPSD 1101.010	Precast Valve Chamber 1,200 mm and 1,500 mm Diameter
OPSD 1101.020	Valve Operator