



Specifications for Electronic Plan Submittals to the Iowa Department of Transportation

Electronic plans submitted by consultants or local agencies to the Iowa Department of Transportation for letting by the Department shall conform to the following file specifications.

All electronic plans shall be submitted in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF). The Iowa DOT recommends submitting PDF files that are Version 1.4 or higher. This file version can be produced using the Adobe Acrobat Standard software, version 5.x or higher. However, earlier PDF file versions will be accepted. PDF files shall also conform to the following requirements:

1. Composition

- a. The resolution of the PDF file shall be exactly 600 dpi (dots per inch).
- b. The recommended color setting for PDF files shall be black and white. However, if color is necessary to allow a plan sheet to be more easily understood, then color PDF files may be submitted.
- c. Raster images will be allowed inside of PDF files, but they shall follow the same color requirements noted above. Raster images contained inside of a PDF file should use JPEG compression.
- d. Each page in the PDF file shall be sized for printing on 11"x17" paper using landscape orientation.

2. Naming Convention

- a. Each PDF file shall be named using the contract I.D. number, which is derived from the Iowa DOT project number. For a plan that will involve multiple project numbers, contact the Iowa DOT administering office to determine which project number should be used to derive the Contract I.D. number.
- b. For projects let using a primary highway project number, the file name shall be CC-RRRS-PPP.pdf; for projects let using a non-primary highway project number, the file name shall be CC-XXXX-PPP.pdf, where:

CC = the two-digit county number

RRR = the three-digit route number

S = the federal control section number

XXXX = the four digit city control number or alpha-numeric county control number, and

PPP = the three-digit parenthesis number for the project

_C= the plan contains color plan sheets

Examples:

Primary project number IMX-35-3(167)129--02-77 would be "77-0353-167.pdf".
County project number FM-C085(93)--55-85 would be "85-C085-093.pdf".
City project number STP-U-0155(614)--70-85 would be "85-0155-614.pdf".
City project number STP-U-0155(614)--70-85 with color sheets would be "85-0155-614_C.pdf"

Place pdf into a folder named the same as the plan (do not include _C in the folder name). Then submit the folder to W:\Highway\Contracts\PlanTurnIn.

3. Submitting Electronic Plan changes

~~The Office of Contracts accepts plan changes to allow for revisions to the plans. When changes are required: Call or email the Office of Contracts as soon as possible to inform them of the proposed plan changes.—~~

~~Draft the changes and create a new PDF file of the entire plan. Prepare copies of the revised sheets that change bid items and highlight ALL changes. Highlighted copies can be prepared electronically.—~~

~~Submit the revised plan and highlighted change sheets by placing them in the correct Contract ID folder under W:\Highway\Contracts\PlanChanges and notify the Contracts Estimator responsible for the project by email of the files in the Plan Changes folder.—~~

~~For Local Systems/Systems Planning/Other Office projects designed by consultants:—~~

~~Submit the revised plan and highlighted change sheets via e-mail to the Contracts Estimator responsible for the project.—~~

This section is now covered by the Plan Changes and Addendums document on the Contracts website at: https://iowadot.gov/contracts/electronicplanspecs/Plan_Changes_and_Addendums_Contracts.pdf