

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To Office Bridges and Structures Date October 1, 2008
Attention All Employees Ref No. 521.1
From Gary Novey
Office Bridges and Structures
Subject Method's Memo No. 204 (General note on keyway dimensions)

There has been some confusion in the field on the keyway dimensions for construction joints that are shown on the office's plans, and whether they are based on the nominal dimensions (2 x 4) or the actual dimensions (1 ½ x 3 ½). In addition, questions have been raised on what the allowable bevel should be on the keyway. Contractors generally prefer as much bevel as possible to make it easier to remove the keyway forms after casting. However, the office would like to limit the bevel to provide a better shear connection across the joint. Therefore, to make it clear the following general note was developed.

E/M 443

KEYWAY DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THE PLANS ARE BASED ON NOMINAL DIMENSIONS UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE. IN ADDITION, THE BEVEL USED ON THE KEYWAY SHALL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 10 DEGREES FROM VERTICAL.

Please provide this note on all projects currently being developed. I will be working with the specifications committee to include this issue in the Iowa DOT "Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction". Until the specifications are updated, this note should be used. If you have any questions, please check with Dean Bierwagen or myself.

GAN/dgb/bj