In early 2010 the largest change to structural design for some time was the implementation of Eurocodes. From 1 April 2010, Eurocodes BS EN 1990 through to BS EN 1998, and associated UK National Annexes, will be used for all publicly procured structural design in the UK. All conflicting British Standards and design documents contained in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) will be withdrawn.

All structural designs affecting public roads and footpaths that need to be submitted to Midlothian Council for Technical Approval (TA), must be designed to comply with these Eurocodes, National Annexes and non-conflicting DMRB documents.

Unless otherwise agreed with the Technical Approval Authority, or until such time as the Eurocodes are deemed to be proven, design categories will go up 1 level, i.e. category 2 will become category 3 etc. The minimum design category will therefore be 1 and as such all submissions for TA will require Approval in Principle (AIP).

New guidance for TA submissions is being prepared for publication in due course. In the interim, existing procedures and pro-forma contained in Chapter VII of our Standards for Development Roads (March 2003) should continue to be used with appropriate references to the use of Eurocodes in the AIP and Technical Approval Schedule (TAS).