

Basic Structural Considerations

## Culverts - Basic Structural Considerations

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NTbhyHNA1Vc>

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## Introduction

- Currently approx. 8350 bridge size culverts in Alberta
- Two types of culverts:
  - 1) Rigid Structures (concrete or timber)
  - 2) Flexible Structures (corrugated metal)

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## [Standard Drawing S-1418-03](#)

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## Rigid Structures

- Concrete (~4%) – either box or pipe
- Timber (0.1%) - no longer being built
- No noticeable deflection under loads
- Concrete is a durable material
- Concrete is relatively expensive

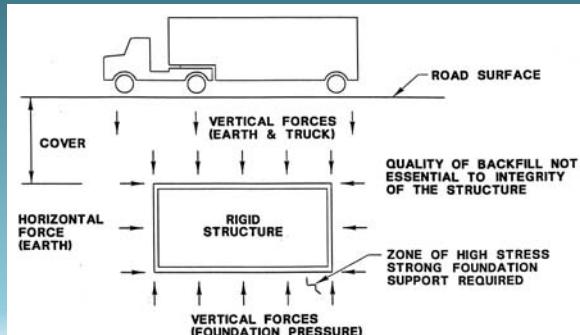
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### Rigid Structures



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### Flexible Structures

- Metal culverts comprise approx. 96% of culvert inventory
- Fabricate to almost any shape
- Relatively cheap
- Backfill & Installation CRITICAL
- Susceptible to structural problems
- Prone to corrosion, abrasion

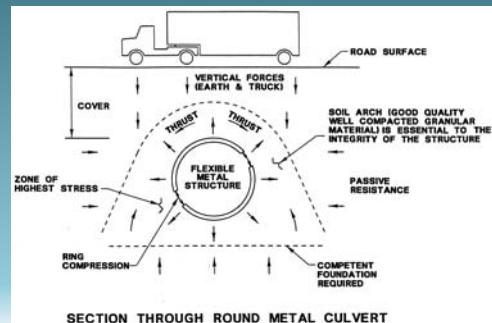


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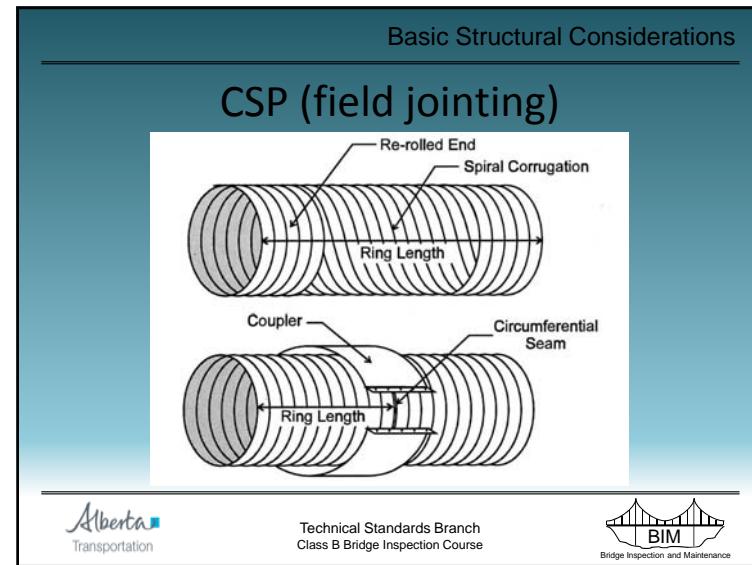
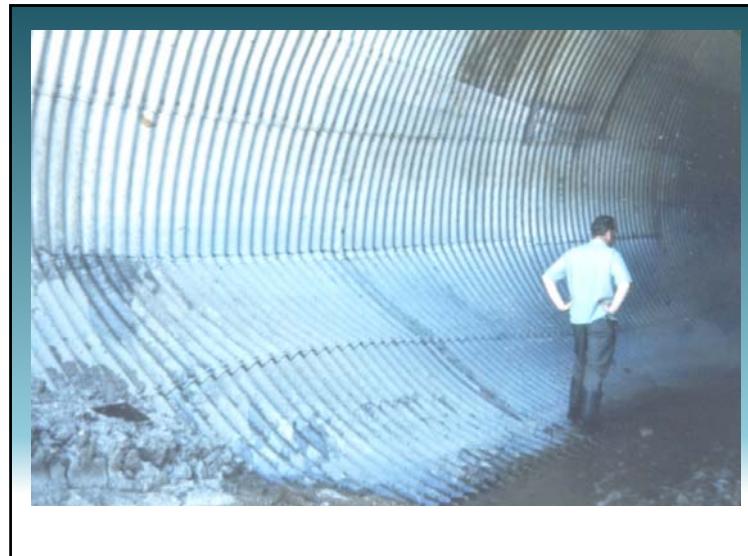
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### Flexible Structures



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### Flexible Culverts

- Two Types:
  - Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP)
  - Structural Plate Corrugated Steel Pipe (SPCSP)



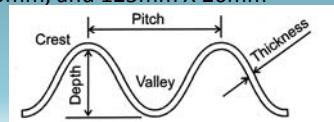
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### CSP Properties

- Common Thickness
  - 2.8mm, 3.5mm, 4.2mm
- Common Profiles
  - 68mm (Pitch) x 13mm (depth)
  - 76mm X 25mm, and 125mm X 26mm



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### Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP)

- Complete rings fabricated in plant
- Rolled helical sections, re-rolled ends
- Joined by couplers
- Bridge sizes range from 1500 to 3600
- Common sizes 1800 to 3000 (in 200mm increments)
- Length to suit transportation (2.5 to 15.0m)



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### Structural Plate Corrugated Steel Pipe (SPCSP)

- Flat plate is corrugated & punched
- HD galv. then curved to shape
- Five thickness – 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7mm
- Profiles - pitch x depth
  - 152 x 51
  - 380 x 140
  - 400 x 150
- Plates bolted together



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## SPCSP (cont.)

- Plate lengths
  - 3050mm (10 ft)
  - 3670mm (12 ft)
- Plate width 5N, 6N, and 9N
 

N is the circumferential bolt spacing  
 $N = 3\pi$  (244mm or 9.6")  
 $N/ring = 4(\text{dia. in feet})$   
 (i.e. 10ft dia = 40N)

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## SPCSP - some recent products

- Atlantic Industry's 'Bolt-a-Plate' width 1067, length 3N to 16N
- Twister Pipe's 'MP 200' pitch 200, depth 55mm
- SuperCor, and Bridge Plate (pitch 380, depth 140)
- New coating systems

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## SPCSP (field bolting)

Longitudinal Seams  
 Circumferential Seams  
 Ring Length  
 $N = 244\text{mm}$

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## SPCSP (longitudinal lapping)

Incorrect Lap      Correct Lap

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## Properly Lapped Seam

Bolt in valley is nearest visible edge



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## Improperly Lapped Seam

Bolt in valley is farthest from visible edge



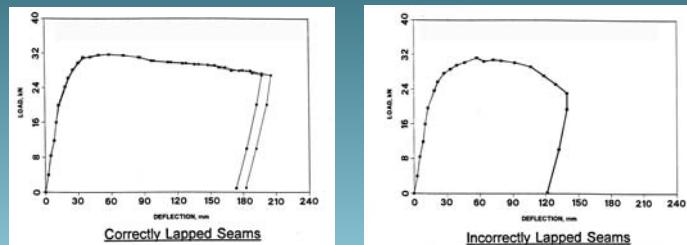
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## SPCSP (seam strength tests)



Correctly Lapped Seams

Incorrectly Lapped Seams

Both types of laps can carry about the same load  
Correctly lapped seams are more ductile - don't normally develop cracks

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## Bridge Construction Inspection Manual

[http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType30/  
Production/BridgeConstructionManualDec2015.pdf](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType30/Production/BridgeConstructionManualDec2015.pdf)

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Questions??



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