



Designation: C 1577 – 05

Standard Specification for Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Sections for Culverts, Storm Drains, and Sewers Designed According to AASHTO LRFD¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 1577; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers single-cell precast reinforced concrete box sections intended to be used for the construction of culverts and for the conveyance of storm water, industrial wastes and sewage.

NOTE 1—This specification is primarily a manufacturing and purchasing specification. However, standard designs per the **AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification 2004 Edition w/2005 Interim** are included and the criteria used to develop these designs are given in **Appendix X1**. The successful performance of this product depends upon the proper selection of the box section, bedding, backfill, and care that the installation conforms to the construction specifications. The purchaser of the precast reinforced concrete box sections specified herein is cautioned that proper correlation of the loading conditions and the field requirements with the box section specified, and provision for inspection at the construction site, are required.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- A 82 Specification for Steel Wire, Plain, for Concrete Reinforcement
- A 185 Specification for Steel Welded Wire Fabric, Plain, for Concrete Reinforcement
- A 496 Specification for Steel Wire, Deformed, for Concrete Reinforcement
- A 497 Specification for Steel Welded Wire Fabric, Deformed, for Concrete Reinforcement
- A 615/A 615M Specification for Deformed and Plain Billet-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
- C 33 Specification for Concrete Aggregates

- C 150 Specification for Portland Cement
 - C 309 Specification for Liquid Membrane-Forming Compounds for Curing Concrete
 - C 497 Test Methods for Concrete Pipe, Manhole Sections, or Tile
 - C 595 Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements
 - C 618 Specification for Coal Fly Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use as a Mineral Admixture in Concrete
 - C 822 Terminology Relating to Concrete Pipe and Related Products
 - C 989 Specification for Ground Granulated Blast-Furnace Slag for Use in Concrete and Mortars
 - C 1116 Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete and Shotcrete
- 2.2 AASHTO Standards:
- AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, 2004 Edition w/2005 Interim³
 - AASHTO LRFD Bridge Construction Specifications, 1998 Edition³
- 2.3 ASCE Standard:
- ASCE 26-97 Standard Practice for Direct Design of Buried Precast Concrete Box Sections⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms relating to concrete pipe, see Terminology C 822.

4. Designation

4.1 Precast reinforced concrete box sections manufactured in accordance with this specification shall be legibly marked with the specification designation, span, rise, and design earth cover.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C13 on Concrete Pipe and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C13.07 on Acceptance Specifications and Precast Concrete Box Sections.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 444 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 249, Washington, DC 20001.

⁴ Available from The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), 1801 Alexander Bell Dr., Reston, VA 20191.

TABLE 1 Design Requirements for Precast Concrete Box Sections Under Earth, Dead and HL-93 Live Load Conditions

NOTE 1—Design earth loads and reinforcement areas are based on the weight of a column of earth over the width of the box section multiplied by a soil structure interaction factor as defined in **Appendix X1**.

NOTE 2—Concrete design strength 5000 psi.

NOTE 3—Steel areas are based on an HL-93 live load without the lane load as permitted by AASHTO, using either the design truck or the design tandem and taking the controlling case.

NOTE 4—The design earth cover indicated is the height of fill above the top of the box section. Design requirements are based on the material and soil properties, loading data, and typical section as included in **Appendix X1**. For alternative or special designs, see **7.2**.

NOTE 5—Design steel area in square inches per linear foot of box section at those locations which are indicated on the typical section shown in Fig. 1.

NOTE 6—The top section designation, for example, 3 ft by 2 ft by 4 in. indicates (interior horizontal span in feet) by (interior vertical rise in feet) by (wall and slab thickness in inches).

NOTE 7—In accordance with the acceptance criteria in **7.2**, the manufacturer is not prohibited from interpolating steel area requirements or submitting independent designs for fill heights between noted increments.

NOTE 8—The “M” dimension given in the tables is the required distance that A_{s1} shall be extended into the top and bottom slabs if it is used as reinforcement for the negative moment in these areas. This distance is based on the location where the negative moment in the slab becomes zero, plus an additional development length. Because the live load can be applied at any location along the top slab as the truck drives over it, it is possible for the “M” dimension to exceed one-half the length of the slab.

NOTE 9—(Advisory)—The reinforcing areas are based on 4 inch circumferential wire spacing. Under design conditions where crack control governs, an analysis following the design criteria in **Table X1.1** with closer steel spacing may result in a reduction in steel area over those in the table.

3 ft by 2 ft by 4 in.									
Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A_{s1}	A_{s2}	A_{s3}	A_{s4}	A_{s5}	A_{s6}	A_{s7}	A_{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.17	0.25	0.16	0.10	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.14	
2<3	0.13	0.19	0.18	0.10					31
3-5	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.10					31
10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10					31
15	0.10	0.13	0.13	0.10					31
20	0.11	0.17	0.17	0.10					31
25	0.14	0.21	0.21	0.10					31
30	0.17	0.25	0.25	0.10					31
35	0.20	0.29	0.30	0.10					31

^A Top slab 7 in., bottom slab 6 in.

3 ft by 3 ft by 4 in.									
Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A_{s1}	A_{s2}	A_{s3}	A_{s4}	A_{s5}	A_{s6}	A_{s7}	A_{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.17	0.27	0.17	0.10	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.14	
2<3	0.10	0.22	0.21	0.10					31
3-5	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.10					31
10	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.10					31
15	0.10	0.14	0.15	0.10					31
20	0.10	0.18	0.19	0.10					31
25	0.10	0.23	0.23	0.10					31
30	0.12	0.27	0.28	0.10					31
35	0.14	0.32	0.32	0.10					31

^A Top slab 7 in., bottom slab 6 in.

4 ft by 2 ft by 5 in.									
Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A_{s1}	A_{s2}	A_{s3}	A_{s4}	A_{s5}	A_{s6}	A_{s7}	A_{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.18	0.27	0.15	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.14	
2<3	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.12					38
3-5	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12					38
10	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12					38
15	0.14	0.16	0.16	0.12					38
20	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.12					38
25	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.12					38
30	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.12					38

^A Top slab 7.5 in., bottom slab 6 in.

4 ft by 3 ft by 5 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.18	0.31	0.18	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.14	
2<3	0.15	0.23	0.20	0.12					38
3-5	0.12	0.16	0.16	0.12					38
10	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.12					38
15	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.12					38
20	0.14	0.23	0.24	0.12					38
25	0.17	0.29	0.29	0.12					38
30	0.21	0.35	0.35	0.12					38

^A Top slab 7.5 in., bottom slab 6 in.

4 ft by 4 ft by 5 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.18	0.33	0.20	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.14	
2<3	0.12	0.26	0.23	0.12					38
3-5	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.12					38
10	0.12	0.15	0.15	0.12					38
15	0.12	0.19	0.20	0.12					38
20	0.12	0.25	0.25	0.12					38
25	0.14	0.31	0.31	0.12					38
30	0.17	0.37	0.37	0.12					38

^A Top slab 7.5 in., bottom slab 6 in.

5 ft by 3 ft by 6 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.19	0.31	0.21	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.18	0.24	0.19	0.14					45
3-5	0.14	0.17	0.16	0.14					36
10	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.14					36
15	0.16	0.21	0.22	0.14					35
20	0.21	0.27	0.28	0.14					35
25	0.26	0.34	0.34	0.14					35
30	0.31	0.41	0.41	0.14					35

^A Top slab 8 in., bottom slab 7 in.

5 ft by 4 ft by 6 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.19	0.33	0.24	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.16	0.27	0.22	0.14					45
3-5	0.14	0.19	0.18	0.14					45
10	0.14	0.18	0.18	0.14					36
15	0.14	0.23	0.24	0.14					35
20	0.17	0.30	0.31	0.14					35
25	0.21	0.37	0.38	0.14					35
30	0.25	0.44	0.45	0.14					35

^A Top slab 8 in., bottom slab 7 in.

5 ft by 5 ft by 6 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.19	0.35	0.26	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.14	0.29	0.24	0.14					45
3-5	0.14	0.21	0.20	0.14					45
10	0.14	0.19	0.20	0.14					45
15	0.14	0.24	0.25	0.14					36
20	0.15	0.31	0.32	0.14					35
25	0.18	0.38	0.39	0.14					35
30	0.21	0.46	0.47	0.14					35

^A Top slab 8 in., bottom slab 7 in.

6 ft by 3 ft by 7 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.20	0.31	0.22	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.21	0.24	0.19	0.17					43
3-5	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.17					39
10	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.17					39
15	0.22	0.24	0.24	0.17					38
20	0.28	0.31	0.31	0.17					38
25	0.35	0.38	0.39	0.17					38
30	0.42	0.46	0.46	0.17					38

^A Top slab 8 in.

6 ft by 4 ft by 7 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.19	0.34	0.25	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.19	0.27	0.21	0.17					43
3-5	0.17	0.21	0.19	0.17					39
10	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.17					39
15	0.18	0.27	0.27	0.17					38
20	0.24	0.34	0.35	0.17					38
25	0.29	0.43	0.42	0.17					38
30	0.35	0.51	0.52	0.17					38

^A Top slab 8 in.

6 ft by 5 ft by 7 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.19	0.37	0.28	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.17	0.30	0.24	0.17					43
3-5	0.17	0.23	0.21	0.17					43
10	0.17	0.22	0.23	0.17					39
15	0.17	0.28	0.29	0.17					38
20	0.20	0.37	0.38	0.17					38
25	0.25	0.45	0.46	0.17					38
30	0.30	0.54	0.55	0.17					38

^A Top slab 8 in.

6 ft by 6 ft by 7 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2 ^A	0.19	0.38	0.30	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.17	
2<3	0.17	0.32	0.26	0.17					52
3-5	0.17	0.24	0.22	0.17					52
10	0.17	0.23	0.24	0.17					43
15	0.17	0.29	0.31	0.17					39
20	0.18	0.38	0.39	0.17					39
25	0.23	0.46	0.48	0.17					38
30	0.27	0.55	0.57	0.17					38

^A Top slab 8 in.

7 ft by 4 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								"M," in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.21	0.34	0.25	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.23	0.28	0.28	0.19					43
3-5	0.19	0.22	0.19	0.19					43
10	0.19	0.23	0.23	0.19					43
15	0.24	0.30	0.30	0.19					41
20	0.31	0.38	0.39	0.19					41
25	0.38	0.47	0.48	0.19					41
30	0.46	0.57	0.57	0.19					41

7 ft by 5 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.19	0.36	0.27	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.21	0.31	0.31	0.19					47
3-5	0.19	0.24	0.21	0.19					43
10	0.19	0.25	0.26	0.19					43
15	0.21	0.32	0.33	0.19					41
20	0.27	0.41	0.42	0.19					41
25	0.33	0.51	0.52	0.19					41
30	0.40	0.61	0.62	0.19					41

7 ft by 6 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.19	0.38	0.30	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.19	0.33	0.34	0.19					59
3-5	0.19	0.25	0.23	0.19					47
10	0.19	0.26	0.27	0.19					43
15	0.19	0.34	0.35	0.19					41
20	0.24	0.43	0.45	0.19					41
25	0.29	0.53	0.55	0.19					41
30	0.35	0.64	0.65	0.19					41

7 ft by 7 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.19	0.40	0.33	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.19	0.36	0.37	0.19					59
3-5	0.19	0.27	0.25	0.19					59
10	0.19	0.27	0.29	0.19					47
15	0.19	0.35	0.37	0.19					43
20	0.22	0.44	0.46	0.19					43
25	0.27	0.54	0.57	0.19					43
30	0.32	0.65	0.67	0.19					41

8 ft by 4 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.27	0.38	0.29	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.31	0.34	0.32	0.19					50
3-5	0.25	0.27	0.27	0.19					50
10	0.26	0.28	0.29	0.19					45
15	0.34	0.37	0.38	0.19					41
20	0.44	0.48	0.49	0.19					41

8 ft by 5 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.24	0.40	0.32	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.28	0.37	0.35	0.19					50
3-5	0.23	0.29	0.30	0.19					45
10	0.23	0.31	0.32	0.19					45
15	0.30	0.41	0.42	0.19					41
20	0.39	0.52	0.54	0.19					41

8 ft by 6 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.22	0.42	0.35	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.25	0.40	0.38	0.19					50
3-5	0.21	0.32	0.33	0.19					50
10	0.22	0.33	0.34	0.19					45
15	0.28	0.43	0.45	0.19					41
20	0.36	0.55	0.57	0.19					41

8 ft by 7 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.20	0.44	0.37	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.23	0.43	0.41	0.19					55
3-5	0.19	0.34	0.35	0.19					55
10	0.20	0.34	0.36	0.19					50
15	0.26	0.45	0.47	0.19					41
20	0.33	0.57	0.60	0.19					41

8 ft by 8 ft by 8 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.20	0.45	0.40	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	
2<3	0.21	0.45	0.44	0.19					65
3-5	0.19	0.36	0.38	0.19					65
10	0.19	0.35	0.38	0.19					55
15	0.24	0.46	0.49	0.19					45
20	0.31	0.59	0.62	0.19					45

9 ft by 5 ft by 9 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.28	0.38	0.31	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	
2<3	0.32	0.38	0.34	0.22					54
3-5	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.22					49
10	0.28	0.33	0.34	0.22					49
15	0.36	0.43	0.45	0.22					44
20	0.47	0.56	0.57	0.22					44
25	0.58	0.69	0.71	0.22					44

9 ft by 6 ft by 9 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.25	0.40	0.34	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	
2<3	0.29	0.41	0.38	0.22					54
3-5	0.23	0.33	0.33	0.22					49
10	0.26	0.35	0.37	0.22					49
15	0.33	0.46	0.48	0.22					44
20	0.42	0.60	0.61	0.22					44
25	0.52	0.74	0.75	0.22					44

9 ft by 7 ft by 9 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.23	0.42	0.36	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	
2<3	0.26	0.44	0.41	0.22					59
3-5	0.22	0.35	0.35	0.22					54
10	0.24	0.37	0.39	0.22					49
15	0.31	0.48	0.51	0.22					44
20	0.39	0.62	0.65	0.22					44

9 ft by 8 ft by 9 in.

Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. ² /ft								“M,” in.
	A _{s1}	A _{s2}	A _{s3}	A _{s4}	A _{s5}	A _{s6}	A _{s7}	A _{s8}	
0<2	0.22	0.43	0.39	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	
2<3	0.24	0.46	0.43	0.22					59
3-5	0.22	0.37	0.38	0.22					59
10	0.22	0.39	0.41	0.22					54
15	0.29	0.50	0.53	0.22					44
20	0.36	0.64	0.67	0.22					44