

Lecture 2.9

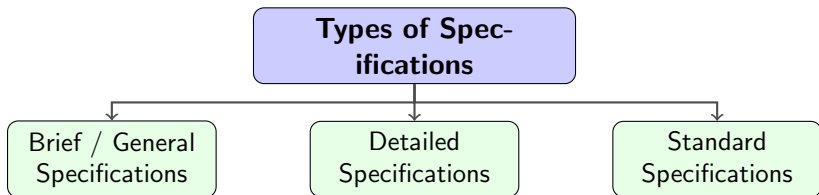
Types of specifications

Estimation & Costing

Agenda

- Classification of Specifications
- Brief (General) Specifications
- Detailed Specifications
- Standard Specifications
- Summary

Classification of Specifications



Specifications are classified based on their level of detail, legal standing, and how they are standardized.

Brief (General) Specifications

Definition

A short description giving the general nature and class of the work and materials in broad terms.

- **Usage:** Primarily used for preparing preliminary estimates and obtaining administrative approval.
- **Legal Status:** Does *not* form part of the legal contract document.
- **Example:** "Foundation shall be of 1:4:8 cement concrete."
(Does not specify curing, mixing method, etc.)

Definition

A comprehensive and exhaustive description of every aspect of an item of work.

- **Usage:** Used for executing the work, preparing detailed estimates, and as a guide for the contractor.
- **Legal Status:** Forms an integral part of the contract document. It is legally binding.
- **Precedence:** In case of any contradiction between drawings and specifications, detailed specifications govern.

Standard Specifications

- **Standardization:** Prepared and printed by major government engineering departments like PWD, CPWD, or Railways.
- **Efficiency:** They save time and effort as they do not need to be rewritten for every single project.
- **Uniformity:** Ensure a uniform standard of work across various projects in a state or country.

Special Specifications

When a particular item is not covered by the Standard Specifications, an additional "Special Specification" is drafted and appended to the tender document.

Summary: Brief vs Detailed

Aspect	Brief Specifications	Detailed Specifications
Detail Level	General and superficial	In-depth and exhaustive
Purpose	Preliminary estimate	Detailed estimate & Execution
Legal Validity	Not part of contract	Legally binding