

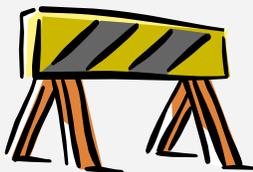
From Brenda O'Brien, Engineer of Construction and Technology

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Index: Materials

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Construction Advisory
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MDOT Independent Assurance Testing (IAT) – 2011 Construction Season Reminders

Reference: *Materials Quality Assurance Manual*, Section E "Independent Assurance Test Procedures"

This construction advisory is intended to act as a reminder of the IAT requirements as outlined in Section 5 of the Materials Quality Assurance Procedures Manual.

The independent assurance testing program is an integral part of the construction materials sampling and testing program that has been mandated for state Department of Transportations by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Per 23 CFR 637, independent assurance program is defined as "activities that are an unbiased and independent evaluation of all the sampling and testing procedures used in the acceptance program".

The following items have been identified as needing special attention:

1. It is essential that ALL qualified (refer to Section E.1.3 of Reference for explanation of the term "qualified") sampling and testing personnel should be a part of the independent assurance (IA) tests. Likewise, equipment involved in acceptance sampling and testing should be used for IA tests. The department is required routinely to verify to both federal and state authorities that these requirements are being met as part of our obligations for federal transportation funding.
2. All Region IAT Coordinators – please make sure that the IAT database is continually updated. Also, please make sure that copies of IAT reports are distributed to appropriate areas.
3. Refer to Section E.5 "IAT Technician" of Reference, which states that "The IAT coordinator will assign qualified personnel to conduct IATs. IATs should be performed by technicians not normally involved in the acceptance testing for the project. At the discretion of the IAT coordinator exceptions may be made due to circumstances such as remoteness of the project or staffing limitations. This should be the exception rather than the rule."
4. Region materials personnel should remain vigilant regarding potential conflict of interest issues with consultant personnel on IATs. A consultant firm cannot be participating in IAT oversight of tester/s working for the same firm.

Additionally, beginning with the 2011 construction year, Lansing Construction and Technology Division will be conducting random review of materials test reports to determine if IATs were performed on testers. These checks will include all four IAT areas (hot mix asphalt, concrete, density, and aggregate). Test reports will be randomly selected from 2011 construction projects from all regions. If any tester is identified to be without IAT, the respective region IAT coordinator/s will be notified.

Contact Information:

Inquiries for various material areas should be forwarded to the following contacts:

Density

Justin Foster, Density Technician; 517-322-5714 or FosterJu@michigan.gov
Adam Strong, Density Technician; 517-322-6004 or StrongAdam@michigan.gov

Hot Mix Asphalt

Marc Beyer, HMA Materials/Mixtures Specialist; 517-749-9758 or BeyerM@michigan.gov

Concrete

Joe Tejkl, Statewide Concrete Paving Specialist; 517-636-4667 or tejkl@michigan.gov

Aggregate

Alan Robords, Aggregate Quality Control; 517-322-1357 or robordsa@michigan.gov

IAT Database

Robert Pena, Construction Info Management & Tech (Inquiries); 517-322-5198 or PenaR@michigan.gov

General IAT Inquiries

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