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MATERIALS ACCEPTANCE FOR LOCAL AGENCIES

This Bridge Field Services advisory serves to notify project offices that material acceptance procedures for some Local Agency Program (LAP) projects have changed. The MDOT Materials Quality Assurance Procedures (MQAP) Manual provides MDOT and LAP project materials acceptance procedures for fabricated structural precast concrete, structural steel, and highway structure elements.

A number of MDOT fabrication inspection vendors have been stamping Local Agency Program (LAP) fabrication elements with MDOT's "Approved for Use" stamp, instead of using a stamp agreed upon by the Local Agency and their contracted fabrication inspection vendor. MDOT's shop inspectors use the MDOT stamp as part of the department's materials acceptance procedure for fabricated structural precast concrete, structural steel, and highway structure elements to indicate that the element has been **approved** for use. The MDOT stamp is placed on the structural elements after verification that all material and fabrication contract requirements have been met and after the element has been loaded for shipping to ensure no loading damage has occurred and the element is properly secured. MDOT's construction staff **accepts** the structural element after verifying it has the MDOT stamp and performing a visual inspection of the element.

MDOT is not involved with the shop inspection and material acceptance aspects of LAP projects and it is not accurate for the MDOT stamp to be used for shop approval of these elements. MDOT has notified its fabrication inspection vendors to cease stamping LAP projects with MDOT's stamp. Additionally, MDOT has notified the County Road Association of Michigan and the Michigan Municipal League to make the Local Agencies aware they will no longer be getting "Approved for MDOT Use" stamps on their fabricated elements when they hire fabrication inspection agencies that work for MDOT. Local Agencies have been instructed to follow the MDOT Materials Quality Assurance Procedures manual for material acceptance.