

# Construction Advisory

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Updated

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Local Government Projects

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Construction Advisory  
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## Administration of Local Agency Hot Mix Asphalt Acceptance Testing Requirements

File review findings from this past construction season have documented many deficiencies with regards to how local agencies have accepted Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) on Federal Aid projects. As detailed in the MDOT/Local Agency Project agreement, projects must be tested and in conformance to the MDOT standard specifications and special provisions within the contract to have Federal Aid participation on HMA items of work. The engineer must administer the contract via the applicable published Bureau of Highway Instructional Memorandums, manuals, and guidelines.

### HMA Mixture Samples

Mixture samples are to be tested in accordance with the applicable testing standards (HMA Production Manual, Michigan Test Methods, ASTM's, and AASHTO) and procedures.

Testing must be performed to make an acceptance decision and appropriately determine contract payment. The frequency of testing must be representative of the HMA production. The only case when the materials testing may be waived is when the tonnage of mixture falls under the Visually Inspected (VI) limits as established in the MDOT Material Source Guide. Federal Aid participation may be withheld on projects where the engineer has waived testing requirements or failed to test the HMA mixture for project for acceptance.

Quality Acceptance (QA) mixture samples are to be obtained by the engineer and custody maintained from initial sampling through completed testing. If samples are taken from the transport truck, the contractor may take the sample if the local agency representative witnesses the sampling and takes immediate possession of the sample.

### HMA Density Testing

HMA density must meet the requirements of the applicable contract special provisions and be carried out in accordance with the procedures and methods describe in the MDOT Density Testing and Inspection Manual. The MDOT Density Testing and Inspection Manual is referenced in the 2012 Standard Specifications for Construction (2012 SSFC) as being included within the 2012 SSFC in its entirety.

Roller Method acceptance must be documented for each half days production as per the applicable special provision.

Please share this construction advisory with local agencies and consultants within your jurisdiction as well as TSC staff.