

For Your Information...

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MTRB Qualifies Highway Construction Inspectors

the HDOT, Materials Testing and Research Branch (MTRB) is in the midst of training and qualifying all of its highways construction inspectors in field sampling and testing of materials to meet a federal mandated deadline of June 29, 2000. This personnel qualification requirement is part of the HDOT Materials Quality Assurance Program established in compliance with Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 637, Subpart B - Quality Assurance Procedures for Construction. Subpart B of the Regulation prescribes the policies, procedures and guidelines for 'State highway agencies' to assure the quality of materials and construction in all Federal-aid highway projects on the National Highway System (NHS). The HDOT Materials Quality Assurance Program has been developed to provide adequate assurance that the public is receiving the desired quality in the product provided by the contractor. To assure quality the assurance program employs a multi-level approach. The first level of assurance is provided by qualifying laboratories and personnel to assure that the equipment and personnel are capable of performing the required test properly. The second level of assurance is provided by an Independent Assurance program. This program provides an unbiased evaluation of the capability of the testers and condition of the equipment used. A third level of assurance is provided by verification sampling and testing. This level reassures the quality of the product. Also, since it would be too time consuming and difficult to identify only Federal-aid projects on the NHS, HDOT quality assurance program will apply to all federal and state highway projects and implementation of these new requirements will begin with all projects advertised after June 29, 2000.

This personnel qualification program, the first step in obtaining quality assurance, provides a uniform statewide procedure for sampling and testing to ensure that test required by specifications are performed in accordance with the prescribed sampling and testing methods. The training and qualification class emphasizes the need to perform the test correctly, the importance of the test and

the consequences of improper sampling and testing procedures. To qualify, field personnel must successfully pass both a written and a performance (proficiency demonstration) examination consisting of nine (9) test methods covering the areas of aggregates, soils, asphalt and

asphalt concrete sampling; concrete sampling and testing; and soil density testing. A certificate of qualification will be issued to all personnel that successfully completes the course. The qualification is good for five (5) years, after which the individual must be re-qualified.



Reactions of the participants to this program have been varied and some of the responses received are:

- Why am I here?
- Too much covered in too little time.
- Now I know the proper way the test is to be done.
- Video provided was very helpful.
- Especially benefitted from the hands-on performance sessions.
- Could use more visual aids.
- Material provided is directly related to my job.

The overall response received has been very positive as the training provides an excellent refresher for some and valuable training for others. MTRB plans to complete this session in March. Qualification (written and performance examinations) for private agencies' personnel doing construction management work for HDOT will follow with announcement of the dates and time provided at a later date.