

March 1,2000

MEMORANDUM 00-03
Revised

To: District Directors
Toll Road Operations Engineer
District Construction Engineers
District Materials and Tests Engineers
Area Engineers
Project Engineers\Supervisors

From: Timothy D. Bertram, Chief
Contracts and Construction Division

Subject: HMA Binder Content Policy 2000

Richard Smutzer, Chief, Materials and Tests Division, has issued a policy for the 2000 construction season on determining HMA Binder Content. The policy outlines the requirements for establishing the appropriate test method to be followed in determining the binder content.

For acceptance testing the policy states:

"A contractor may request in writing that binder content be determined by extraction for HMA mixtures that have inconsistent results in the ignition oven. HMA mixtures having inconsistent results will be defined as mixtures with an aggregate source comprising more than 10% of the mixture by mass and identified as being inconsistent in 1999 **or** where the calibration **samples** yield a standard deviation greater than 0.2. The DMTE will review and approve, if appropriate, the request for binder content determined by extraction method."

For appeals of HMA acceptance tests the policy states:

"When requesting an appeal for HMA test results the contractor shall state the test method, ignition oven or extraction, to be used during the appeal process. If granted the appeal will apply to all QA testing results (binder content, gradation, and coarse aggregate angularity). Appeals of individual test results (binder content, gradation, and coarse aggregate angularity) will not be considered."

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For all contracts let after September 1, 1999 the cost of the ignition oven calibrations are included in the bid prices for HMA items; therefore, no adjustments are necessary for these contracts for the ignition oven calibrations. Contracts let prior to September 1, 1999 are to be administered under the guidelines established in 1999 and the contractor should be paid \$500 for a calibration factor on each 401 DMF or 402 JMF not previously used on a contract.

Applying this policy to contracts where the Contractor Acceptance special provision is utilized, all binder contents shall be determined by use of the ignition oven unless the conditions for inconsistent results as outlined above are met. The contractor shall submit a request in writing for the use of extraction method for determining binder content and the data of inconsistent results prior to the start of any HMA production.

Any questions concerning the ignition oven or binder content should be directed to George Merritt at 317-232-5280, ext. 216.

TDB:RLY:rly

cc: Materials and Tests Division
FHWA
APAI
ICI
CEI

Note: Changes in bold type