

March 31, 2000

MEMORANDUM 00-09

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

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

Subject: Plate Samples, HMA Thickness Greater Than 75 mm

Last construction season INDOT experienced problems with sampling HMA lifts thicker than 75 mm do to improper sampling procedures. ITM 580 outlines the proper procedure for sampling HMA. When the HMA lift is greater than 75 mm a mold (cookie cutter) and plate are to be utilized. This process is to be followed to help control the sample size and accuracy of the sample. When the plate sample is not obtained properly, the districts must direct coring to obtain a sample for acceptance. The Qualified Sampler and Tester Program should ensure the samplers have the knowledge of proper sampling techniques in accordance with ITM 580.

INDOT personnel must witness all samples obtained for acceptance under the federal requirements. The contractor is responsible for obtaining the sample as per specification under INDOT witness. INDOT personnel should not allow a contractor's personnel to continue to obtain samples that are not in accordance with ITM 580. If samples are not being obtained properly, INDOT personnel should bring it to the attention of a contractor's supervisor. Any samples given to a state representative which has not been sampled properly should be noted as such on the IT 530 and all IT 530s must be signed by the contractor's personnel obtaining the sample and the INDOT personnel witnessing the sample.

Acceptance test results are only as good as the samples utilized in performing the tests. To continue to improve the quality of roadways here in Indiana, everyone must do their part to assist in ensuring this quality improvement.

TDB:RLY:rly

cc: Materials and Tests Division
FHWA
ICI
APAI
CEI