



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

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This Memo Has Expired

MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 03-06

DCE MEMORANDUM NO. 04-06

(FHWA approved 2/8/06)

TO: DISTRICT MATERIALS ENGINEERS
DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: Thomas O. Malerk, P.E., Director, Office of Materials
Brian A. Blanchard, P.E., Director, Office of Construction

COPIES: Bob Burleson, Jim Warren, Jim Musselman

SUBJECT: HOT MIX ASPHALT (HMA) QC FAILURES

This memorandum is issued to allow an HMA Producer the authority to resume asphalt production operations (following a shutdown due to a QC failure), without getting the Engineer's approval.

Section 334 of the Specifications requires that the Contractor/HMA Producer cease asphalt production operations when the QC test results fall outside of the established tolerances. The Specifications further require the approval of the Engineer prior to the Contractor resuming production operations:

“...until the problem is adequately resolved (to the satisfaction of the Engineer), unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Engineer that the problem can immediately be (or already has been) resolved.”

In an effort to shift more of the quality-related responsibilities to the Contractor, and to reward those Contractor's that are embracing the Contractor Quality Control process, the Department will grant the HMA Producer the authority to resume production following a QC failure without getting the Engineer's approval. Please note that this only applies to QC failures; Independent Verification failures will still require the approval of the Engineer to resume production.

MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 03-06

DCE MEMORANDUM NO. 04-06

Page 2

The conditions which go with this modification include the following:

- 1) The HMA Producer will revise their Producer QC Plan to indicate the person who will be responsible to make the decision to resume production following a shutdown due to a QC failure. At a minimum, the individual must be qualified as a Plant Level II Technician or as a QC Manager.
- 2) When a QC test failure occurs, the HMA Producer will cease production operations, assess the problem, make the necessary changes, resume production and then sample and test the material to verify that the changes have adequately addressed the problem. This information must then be summarized and provided to the District Bituminous Engineer prior to the end of the work shift that had the QC failure.
- 3) The District Materials Office (DMO) will continually assess the actions taken by the HMA Producer regarding their decision making process with respect to QC failures. In the event the HMA Producer makes questionable decisions with respect to material quality, the District Materials Office will then rescind this approval authority and the system will revert back to the current system where the Engineer's approval is required. The DMO will then require the HMA Producer to revise their QC Plan accordingly.

This memorandum serves as blanket approval to process a \$0.00 spec change for on-going project and should be attached to the Work Order or Supplemental Agreement.

Should you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact Jim Musselman at (352) 955-2905, SC 625-2905 or David Wang at (850) 414-4152, SC 994-4152, for additional information.

TOM/BAB:jm