



Florida Department of Transportation

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This Memo Has Expired

MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 02-12

DCE MEMORANDUM NO. 03-12

(FHWA Approved: 02/01/12)

**TO: DISTRICT MATERIALS RESEARCH ENGINEERS
DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS**

FROM: Timothy J. Ruelke P.E., Director, Office of Materials
David A. Sadler, P.E., Director, Office of Construction

COPIES: Ghulam Mujtaba, Mike Bergin, Rafiq Darji (FHWA), Chris Richter (FHWA),
Chad Thompson (FHWA), Heather Dean (FHWA), Tom Byron, Bob Burleson

**SUBJECT: REINFORCING STEEL SAMPLE FREQUENCY, METALS AND
GUARDRAIL STEEL ACCEPTANCE**

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify several issues related to steel reinforcing bars (rebar) and metal materials sampling requirements.

For rebar, the Job Guide Schedule (JGS) assigns Material IDs to pay items, making it appear that the requirement of one sample per every 80 tons of rebar applies to each pay item. That is not the case. The 80 ton frequency applies to all pay items, grades and sizes of rebar. The frequency is applicable to reinforcing steel used in cast-in-place components, such as bridges, cast-in-place box culverts and drilled shafts. The frequency does not include precast components delivered to the project site since the reinforcing materials are verified under the manufacturing facility's Quality Control Program. For pay items that include the steel in the cost of the pay item, for example, drilled shafts, CEI personnel should review invoices or bills of lading that accompany the rebar shipments to determine the total rebar steel used. The Project Administrator shall include the total quantity of steel used on the contract in the Project Administrator's Material Statement so that Final Materials Certification personnel will be able to determine if the minimum frequency was met.

Samples shall be selected from the most common size of rebar on the project. If the rebar sizes are equally divided between pay items, the CEI personnel may choose whichever size or sizes are easiest to sample, store and transport. CEI personnel are reminded that samples shall be taken in a timely manner and submitted to the State Materials Office as soon as the sample is taken. This shall be done at the time the steel arrives at the jobsite so that any materials issues that arise can be addressed at the appropriate time. There are instructions for sampling rebar posted on the State Materials Office website that describe in detail the sampling requirements. The website address is as follows:

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/statematerialsoffice/laboratory/lims/resources/instructions/reinforcingsteel.pdf>

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For steel material used in guardrail, several Material IDs have been revised to reflect the current Specification requirements. Steel panels, steel posts and steel blocks require certified mill analyses from the manufacturer. CEI personnel shall submit these to the State Materials Office Physical Lab for review. For guardrail end anchorage assemblies and bridge anchorage assemblies, acceptance is based on QPL listing. The hardware Material IDs and assembly Material IDs for each type of assembly have been combined into one Material ID and the method of acceptance for the Material ID has been changed to QPL on the Sampling Testing and Reporting Guide (STRG).

The structural steel certified mill analyses required in Section 962 only apply to Specifications 460 pay items; as well as steel sheet piling and steel piling pay items in Specifications 455. Many of these materials are inspected by a commercial inspection firm at the steel fabrication facility under the direction of the State Materials Office. The STRG has been revised to provide direction for these Material IDs (210, 211, 215, 685 and 687) for components that are commercially inspected. If a component under one of these five Material IDs has been commercially inspected, the CEI personnel will receive a package of certified mill analyses from the inspection firm. There is no need to log a sample into LIMS and submit those documents to the State Materials Office. The documents are reviewed as part of the commercial inspection process and do not need to be reviewed again by the State Materials Office. Only those structural steel components that are not commercially inspected prior to installation will need the certified mill analyses logged into LIMS and submitted to the State Materials Office Physical Lab. CEI personnel will know which ones these are because they will receive them directly from the Contractor and not a commercial inspection firm. Following these instructions will greatly reduce the number of samples that need to be logged into LIMS under these Material IDs.

Changes made to the STRG for guardrail and structural steel Material IDs will not be reflected on on-going projects JGS. CEI personnel should follow these instructions regardless of the JGS entries. New projects will reflect the revisions as the JGSs are generated.

Should you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Susan Blazo, State Materials Office at 352-955-6669 or Richard DeLorenzo, State Materials Office 352-955-6667.

TJR/DAS/mb