Section 10.1

FLORIDA SAMPLING AND TESTING METHODS

10.1.1 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the Florida Sampling and Testing Methods (FSTM) and to define the review process for each Florida Method (FM).

10.1.2 AUTHORITY

Section 20.23 (3)(a) and 334.048(3), Florida Statutes

10.1.3 REFERENCE

334.044(2), Florida Statutes

10.1.4 SCOPE

Primary offices affected by this procedure include the State Materials Office (SMO), State Construction Office (SCO), District Construction Offices (DCO), District Materials and Research Offices (DMROs), and Resident Construction Offices (RCOs).

10.1.5 BACKGROUND

The purpose of developing Florida Methods is to standardize the Florida Department of Transportation’s (Department) sampling and testing methods and to furnish a compilation of these methods for the Department’s Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

10.1.5.1 Florida Methods

The SMO developed Florida Methods because no recognized standard methods were available to meet the intended purpose, or an existing published method needed to be extensively revised to accommodate a specific need. A method falling in the second category is identified by the numerical prefix five (5) in its designation. FM designations were established in the same manner as they were for the test numbers in the
source *Sampling, Testing and Reporting Guide (STRG)*. The numerical prefix gives the parent method. Excluding Department developed procedures and federal procedures, the remainder of the designation is almost always the same as the parent method designation. For example, *FM 1-T 002* refers to *AASHTO T-2*, *FM 3-D 5404* refers to *ASTM D 5404*. On the other hand, *FM 5-505* is the method developed by the SMO for *Field Testing the Effectiveness of Anti-Strip Additive*.

Numerical prefixes have the following meanings:

1- AASHTO procedure  
3- ASTM procedure  
5- FDOT procedure  
8- American Petroleum Institute

10.1.5.2 Manuals

Florida Methods were previously compiled into two manuals. The *Manual of Florida Sampling and Testing Methods* was the master manual containing all the Florida sampling and testing methods used to determine the quality of materials and workmanship incorporated into highway construction projects. The FSTM was a smaller manual containing methods (from the master manual), which appeared to be routinely needed by field personnel. The FSTM was originally issued in December 1977, and both are discontinued with the publication of this chapter of the Materials Manual. The methods referenced in this chapter are in numerical sequence by prefix. Methods with the same prefix such as 1 for AASHTO or 3 for ASTM are then arranged numerically or alphanumerically as appropriate.

10.1.5.3 Information Regarding Florida Methods

The SMO is responsible for development and application of FMs. Questions regarding these methods must be directed to the SMO through the DMROs except when the information is required by SMO personnel. Inquiries, comments or recommendations regarding a method should follow the above procedure and be addressed by the primary laboratory at the SMO responsible for the particular method. The primary laboratory is the laboratory shown in the STRG as having primary responsibility for review and revision of sampling and testing methods and frequencies. If a question arises concerning a method for which no primary laboratory is known, the
question should be directed to the laboratory or section responsible for the
general subject area such as bituminous, chemical, physical (concrete),
soils, pavement evaluation, etc. Primary laboratories will advise the SMO
of the requested changes.

10.1.6 GENERAL

The SMO has designated FMs as the official sampling and testing methods to
be used for accepting materials or workmanship that can be measured by
sampling and testing.

Some methods refer to other national standards. Refer to those standards for
additional information on the test method. The FMs can be accessed through
the Department's web site at the following address:

http://www.fdot.gov/materials/administration/resources/library/publications/fst
m/disclaimer.shtm

Florida Methods that have been published are included in the Department’s
Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction. The
existence of FMs does not preclude the use of sampling and testing methods
from other designated sources such as AASHTO, ASTM, American Welding
Society (AWS), Steel Structures Painting Council (SSPC), etc., when no FM
is available to obtain the desired information.

The STRG states which method is to be used when a test is the method of
acceptance for a material listed in the Guide.

10.1.7 REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Each primary laboratory or section with knowledge and expertise about the
material addressed by an FM is responsible for initial content and revision of
that method. Revisions usually result from a change in the recognized
standard source method or parent, from a requirement of the Federal
Highway Administration (FHWA), or from a discovered need to change the
FM in order for it to be effective in accomplishing its intended purpose. The
Director, Office of Materials obtains final approval from FHWA before an FM
becomes an official FSTM.

All revisions and updates to each FSTM will be coordinated with the SMO’s
FSTM Coordinator. The SMO, upon final approval by FHWA, will publish
revisions and additions to the methods. See Appendix A for review process.
10.1.8 UPDATE SCHEDULE

There is no specific update schedule for the methods. Instead, individual methods are continuously revised, added or deleted as needed. The Director, Office of Materials immediately communicates such changes to users. Methods without recent revision dates are reviewed, revised and re-issued in accordance with Materials Manual revision schedule.

10.1.9 DISTRIBUTION

The SMO will notify appropriate personnel when new methods are published. The SMO sends pertinent notices to registered Materials Manual holders. District Materials and Research Engineers (DMREs) will coordinate distribution to personnel within their districts.

10.1.10 TRAINING

No training is required for use of this section. Training and qualification in testing methods is addressed in the Construction and Training Qualification Program.

10.1.11 FORMS

No forms are necessary for use of this section.
APPENDIX A

SMO Technical unit develops initial draft and consults with District counterparts

SMO Technical unit sends draft to QS

FSTM Coordinator sends draft to the group DMRE-Extended staff, District MCEs, and FHWA for review. (See note above)

FSTM Coordinator sends draft to Editorial Team and SMO Safety/Training Specialist (See Note)

SMO Technical unit addresses Editorial Team’s and SMO Safety/Training Specialist’s comments

SMO Technical unit addresses DMRE-Extended staff and FHWA comments

Note: Send to FHWA for review and approval, only if major revision or new FM

Note: Send to SMO Safety/Training Specialist for review if any safety or training media included

FSTM Coordinator sends final draft to Director, Office of Materials approval

FSTM Coordinator forwards approved FSTM to SMO webmaster to publish on SMO website

FSTM Coordinator notifies users in the distribution list that new/revised FSTM is now available on the SMO website

FSTM Review Process