

## 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. FM designations were established using the guide for numerical prefixes that gives the source as shown below, followed by the parent method designation. For example, **FM 1-R 090** refers to **AASHTO R-90**, **FM 3-D 5404** refers to **ASTM D 5404**. On the other hand, Department or federal developed test methods will have a numerical prefix of "5" followed by the next in sequence numbering. For example, **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
- 2- Federal Standards (procedures or requirements)
- 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 the 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 this 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 Sampling, Testing, and Reporting Guide (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 FSTM Coordinator 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/fstm/disclaimer.shtm>

Florida Methods that have been published may also be found referenced 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 a new 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

Each FM is reviewed within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of each year. However, individual methods are continuously revised, added or deleted as needed. The FSTM Coordinator immediately communicates such changes to users.

### **10.1.9 DISTRIBUTION**

The SMO FSTM Coordinator will notify appropriate personnel when new methods are published. The SMO FSTM Coordinator 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**

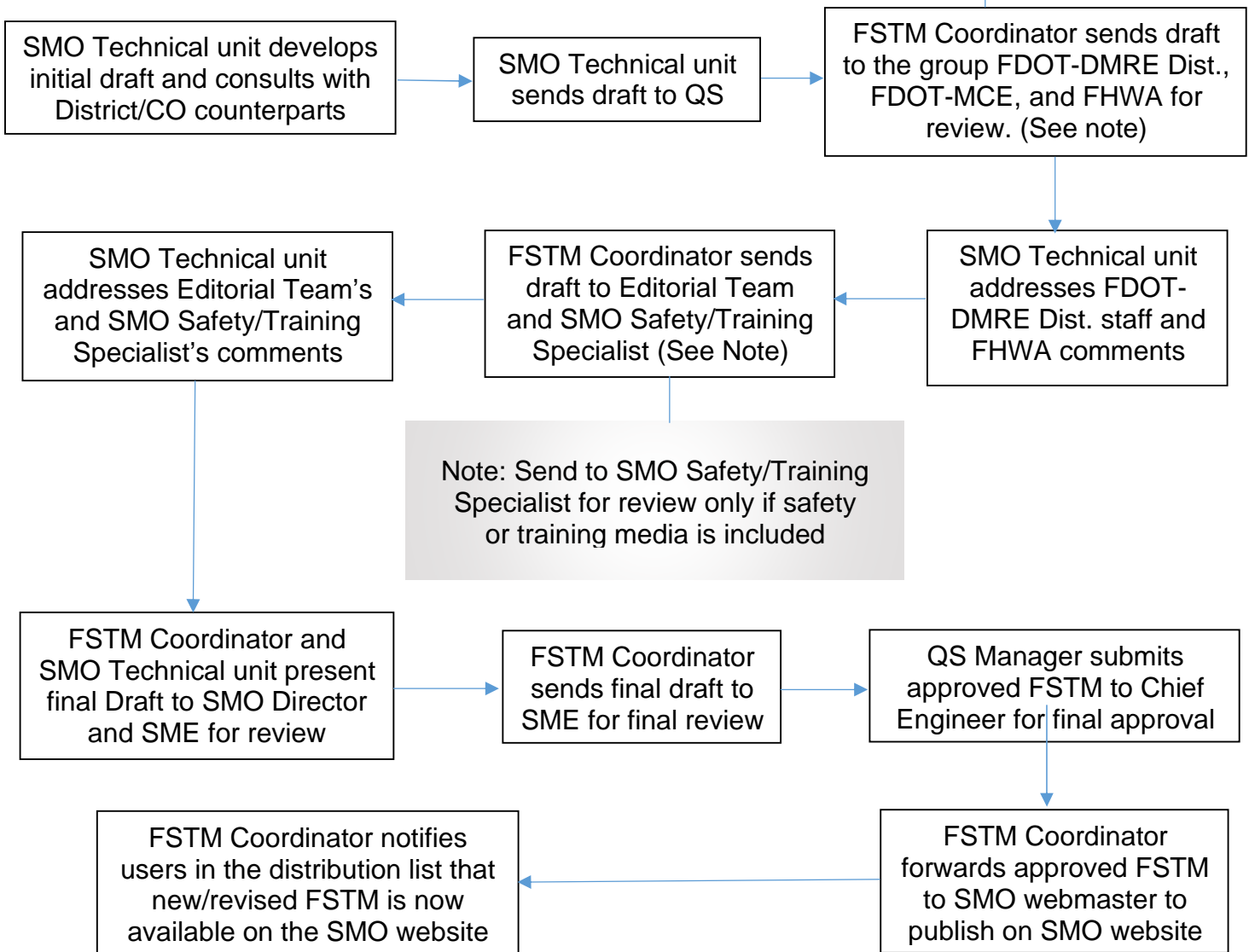
No training is required for use of this section. Training and qualification in testing methods is addressed in the Construction and Training Qualification Program.

### **10.1.11 FORMS**

No forms are necessary for use of this section.

## APPENDIX A

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



## FSTM Review Process