

1050501 CONTRACTOR QUALITY CONTROL GENERAL REQUIREMENTS  
INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMENTS

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Comments: (9-2-16)

5 days could be a big deal. Say a technician gets sick, you need a replacement, but the certified technician has not been submitted for your specific project. Do we wait 5 days to make the pour? I don't think that is the intent of the spec. Specs generally only change because there is a specific problem. Can this be revised to address the specific issue that caused the change to be initiated and not be a blanket "any changes"?

Many times minor changes are needed that do not need five days for approval. Five days' notice for any change could delay project work. Clerical changes such as adding a Technician or adding a pre-approved concrete design mix number should not require the five day approval period.

Response:

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Comments: (9-7-16)

In reading the proposed spec along with the origination, I think the spec is not addressing the concern.

The concern is that some Contractors aren't updating the QC plan after a change, or aren't updating in a timely manner. With that in mind, the spec change should state that changes made must be included in the QC plan within five days of the change. instead, you have it written that once a change is identified the Contractor must make the change in the QC plan 5 days prior to implementing the change in the field. This is unrealistic and will greatly slow down projects and create a horrible working environment between the contractor and the FDOT PA.

Much of what we as contractors do has to be reactionary to the markets we deal with. The labor market, the materials markets can change quickly. It would be unfair to not allow a properly licensed technician to work on a project he is qualified to work on for 5 days while we submit paperwork, when that technician may be replacing someone who has left the company.

Or is a material is approved for FDOT use, waiting 5 days for paperwork to process seems like it is not working towards a goal of getting projects done as quickly and safely as possible. I wish we could see every possibility ahead of time, but often we can't. This proposed spec change limits the contractors ability to move the project along.

Although, asking for QC plans to be updated within 5 days after change seems like a fair ask on the part of the FDOT. If it is the FDOT's wish to make contractors provide prior notice and then wait 5 days, please insert language that allows contractor to work at their own risk during that period.

Response:

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Comments: (9-14-16)

This proposed change requires too much time to change concrete mix designs and ensure uninterrupted supply of concrete to FDOT projects.

Currently, FDOT requires a separate mix design number for each combination of materials in concrete. To substitute a material source (e.g. fly ash source "A" for fly ash source "B"), Section 9.2.6.9 of the Materials Manual requires up to 5 working days to obtain a new mix number. The mix number then needs to be added to the contractor QC plan, which would add another 5 working days under the proposed change.

Therefore, material substitution would require 2 weeks just for FDOT approval. In many cases, the ready mix concrete supplier needs to make a change in a shorter time frame in order to ensure uninterrupted supply of material for DOT projects. For instance, a ready mix company could be notified that there is a shortage due to market conditions or unplanned outage at one of the raw material suppliers and must switch materials within one day or a few days.

If FDOT requires 2 weeks to complete the current process, then the Standard Specification and/or Materials Manual should be revised to allow a streamlined process for substituting materials that still ensure consistent quality and adequate traceability. The industry should be consulted to establish a process that demonstrates to FDOT the concrete mixes will exhibit equivalent performance when substitution materials without going through the time of changing every mix number.

Response:

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Comments: (9-15-16)

Updating the QC plan is fine, but 5 days prior is a bit much. A good example is concrete mixes. We have been at the mercy of the ready-mix suppliers when aggregates are changed and we are hardly notified by them of these changes. Sometimes the truck is on-site and the mix number is not in the plan. 5 days in this case is excessive, probably 24 hours or even 48 hours is reasonable. Treat concrete mixes like asphalt mixes.

Response:

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Comments: (9-21-16)

The requirement to update a QC plan no fewer than 5 days prior to any changes is unnecessary and will lead to downtime in the event of an unplanned change. Material availability can require a supplier change at the last minute and as the industry grows busier, these issues will become more prevalent as they have in the past. I caution the Department that this requirement could have a negative impact on a Contractor's ability to timely deliver a project, especially if an unplanned change is required at the tail end of a project.

Response:

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