
Section 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The objective of the *Product Certification Handbook* is to describe the Florida Department of Transportation's (Department) Approved Product List (APL) and permitting processes/requirements to applicants, suppliers, and end-users. The Department is required by federal and state law to ensure that only a safe and uniform traffic control system is implemented on streets and highways of the state. The Traffic Engineering Research Laboratory (TERL) within the Department's State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office supports this mandate by: (a) impartially evaluating traffic control products for certification to federal and/or state standards (and APL listing), (b) authorizing innovative products for field evaluations against state developmental specifications (and APL listing) or (c) permitting those products that do not meet federal and/or state standards upon showing of good cause.

1.2 AUTHORITY

Sections 20.23(4)(a), 334.048(3), Florida Statutes (F.S.)

1.3 REFERENCES

Sections 316.0745, 316.0747, F.S.
Procedure 630-020-001 Transportation Product Evaluation

1.4 SCOPE

This handbook applies to the TERL, vendors (i.e., applicants and suppliers) and end-users of traffic control products pursuing product listing on the Department's APL, seeking a permit to use a product not listed on the APL, or reporting product/supplier non-conformities with requirements.

1.5 STATEMENT OF IMPARTIALITY

The TERL's aim is to inspire and prove confidence in its product certification services. The TERL understands and is fully aware of the importance of being impartial in carrying out certification activities. In addition, it has an organizational structure, policies, and procedures setup to manage impartiality and help ensure its certification activities are undertaken impartially.

1.6 DISTRIBUTION

The current version of this handbook is available free-of-charge and on-line at the Department's State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office – Document Library web site at:

<https://www.fdot.gov/traffic/traf-sys/terl-pch.shtm>

1.7 REVISIONS

The handbook is subject to periodic review and revisions. It is the responsibility of applicants and suppliers to meet current requirements listed in the handbook. Revisions to sections of the handbook are listed at the end of each section under "DOCUMENT HISTORY".

1.8 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Rev	Description	Authored and Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Approval Date
1.0	New Product Certification Handbook section	A. Burleson	D. Vollmer R. Meyer J. Morgan T. Tillander	M. Wilson	08/17/2012
2.0	Comments from FDOT Legal Office addressed.	J. Morgan A. Burleson	J. Morgan	M. Wilson	01/30/2013
3.0	Included impartiality statement for compliance to clause 5.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17021.	A. Burleson	J. Morgan	M. Wilson	07/30/2014
4.0	Updated position title for Mark Wilson in document control panel.	A. Burleson	J. Morgan	M. Wilson	11/18/2014
5.0	Referenced IPL use and the Transportation Product Evaluation procedure.	A. Burleson	D. Vollmer M. DeWitt W. Geitz	T. Tillander	05/27/2022
6.0	Removed references to IPL.	A. Burleson	D. Vollmer M. DeWitt W. Geitz	R. Powell	05/09/2024
7.0	Updated URL.	A. Burleson	D. Vollmer	D. Vollmer	05/01/2026