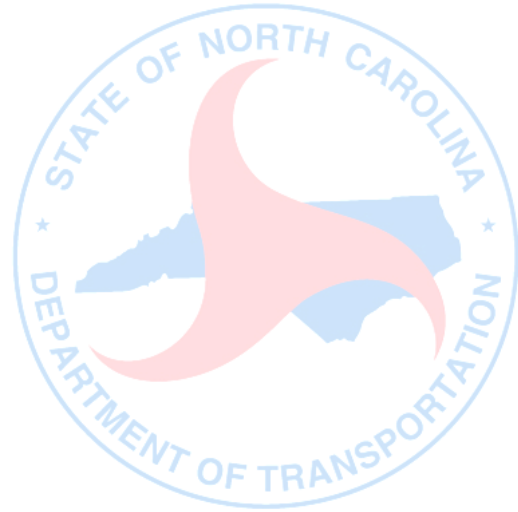


# Materials & Tests Unit

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## Independent Assurance Program



### Purpose

The purpose of the NCDOT Independent Assurance (IA) Program is to assist Engineers, Technicians, and the Department in the administration of federally funded transportation projects. It provides guidance for the NCDOT oversight staff responsible for supporting this program.

FHWA Regulation 23 CFR 637 requires each state to have an IA Program and defines this as:

“Activities that are an unbiased and independent evaluation of all the sampling and testing procedures used in the acceptance program.”

The Independent Assurance Program ensures the sampling and testing procedures are performed correctly and the testing equipment used in the program operates correctly and remains calibrated. It involves a separate and distinct schedule of sampling, testing and observation from that of the Quality Assurance Program.

Qualified sampling and testing personnel, other than those performing the verification and quality control (QC) sampling and testing, should perform the Independent Assurance (IA) tests. Likewise, equipment other than that used for verification and QC should be used for IA sampling and testing. Agency personnel or a Department designated accredited laboratory shall perform the testing.

While this Program provides detailed guidance regarding the IA Program, it is not a replacement for regular contact with NCDOT oversight staff. Please work closely with the Materials and Tests staff in the appropriate NCDOT Division office.

For inquiries regarding the Department’s Independent Assurance Program, contact the Materials and Tests Unit’s Independent Assurance Program Engineer, Christopher D. Whitley at [cdwhitley@ncdot.gov](mailto:cdwhitley@ncdot.gov).