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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

November 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Engineers
FROM: Christopher A. Peoples, PE
State Materials Engineer
SUBJECT: Changes to Aggregate Base Course (ABC) Roadway Assurance (RA) Sampling Requirements

As a result of repeated audits indicating insufficient RA sampling, the Construction and Materials and Tests Units have recently reviewed and revised the ABC Sampling Manual and the Minimum Sampling Guide. Improvements have been made related to numbering, tracking, and sample frequency.

Current Minimum Sampling Frequency

One pair of samples (A & B) for every 5000 tons placed on the project. The A sample is taken in the first 2500 tons and B sample in the second 2500 tons. The average of the A and B sample is used for acceptance.

Revised Minimum Sampling Frequency

One sample for every 2500 tons or fraction thereof placed on the project prior to compacting the material. No more than five days of ABC placement shall occur without a sample. A minimum of three samples per project shall be taken.

Sample Tracking

To ensure samples are being consistently numbered and tracked, a sample book form was created and inserted as Appendix G of the ABC Sampling Manual. Along with utilizing this form, please encourage your Resident Engineers to review ABC proposed to be used on their projects and develop a sampling plan at the beginning of the project to ensure we are successful in obtaining at or above the minimum number of required RA samples.

Also, as this has been identified as a potential source of confusion, please encourage Resident Engineers to review Example 4 in Appendix B for a method of obtaining the minimum three samples for projects with quantities less than 5,000 tons.

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This change will take effect on January 1, 2011 for all active and future contracts. The Standard Specifications and all associated manuals and references have been modified to reflect these changes. All future ABC Sampling classes will include the updated information. Technicians currently certified are not required to obtain new certifications but are strongly encouraged to visit the M&T website at <http://www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/materials/eforms.html> to review a PowerPoint presentation of the significant revisions and for the most current ABC Sampling Manual.

For questions related to ABC Sampling revisions, please contact Mehdi Haeri at (919) 733-3242.

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