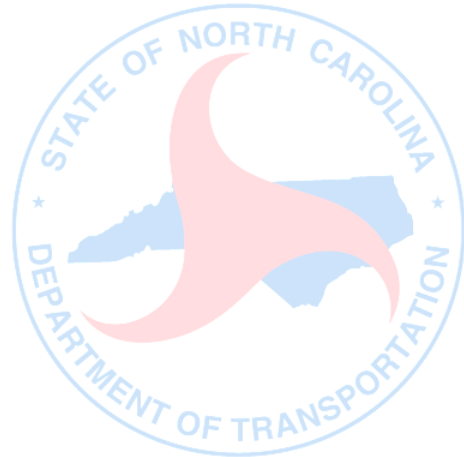


Materials & Tests Unit

Independent Assurance Program



The IA Evaluation

The IA Evaluation consists of two parts:

IA Technician Assessment – A documented observation of a qualified technician’s sampling and testing methods to determine competency. The assessment process also requires verification that testing equipment used by the assessed technician is in acceptable condition and is within required calibration limits.

IA Split Sampling – Process used to evaluate active technician’s testing results versus IA evaluation results. IA split sampling shall be conducted on site while the tester is in the process of performing testing, when possible. Independent Assurance samples shall be taken separately from other samples, as their results cannot be used in place of acceptance, verification, or quality control sample results. Active technicians and IA Assessors shall each use their own equipment to perform IA split sampling. In cases where IA split samples require testing in a laboratory, the assessed technician’s sample will be tested at their own approved lab, while the IA Assessors split will be tested at an M&T Regional Laboratory or M&T’s Central Laboratory.

Note: All evaluation outcomes (Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory) are based on the IA Assessor’s test results. For annual IA Program requirements to be fulfilled, the IA Technician Assessment and IA Split Sample shall have a satisfactory final result.

The IA Technician Assessment and IA Split Sample can be conducted on the same date or at separate times during the calendar year.

The IA Technician Assessment portion is conducted by an IA Assessor, who is an M&T employee. If an IA Assessor is not available, an IA Certified Assessor who has been approved by the IA Program Engineer may conduct the assessment. Additionally, an IA Assessor or IA Certified Assessor shall conduct the IA Split Sample test. At no time shall a technician be evaluated by a member of the same firm.

NOTE: If a technician attends and successfully passes a Department held certification class, it is counted as the IA Technician Assessment for that year but does not replace the requirement for an IA Split Sample. An IA Split Sample is required every year, even if an active technician has successfully completed the certification class.