

Manufactured Products – January 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the M&T Bulletin.

The **Materials and Tests Unit** has the responsibility of establishing acceptance criteria for materials and manufactured products to be incorporated into the North Carolina highway system and ensuring that these materials and manufactured products meet these criteria and function as intended.

The intent of the M&T Bulletin is to provide answers to frequently asked questions and insight into how materials are inspected, approved, tested, and received, and provide better overall customer service.



Reinforced Concrete Pipe and RFID Tracking

RFID tracking of RCP became mandatory as of January 1, 2023. There have been a variety of issues arise as we transition to RFID tracking.

M&T is aware of the problems and is actively seeking to continue to improve the process for everyone.

Frequently RCP arrives on the project that is not yet in HiCams. If this occurs set the pipe aside and re-check the APL after a day or two. **Do not install any pipe that is not shown as approved on the APL or HiCams.**



HiCAMS Error? What next?

Simply email: HiCams_Support@ncdot.gov

And answer questions below:

- What are you trying to do in HiCams?
- What is the contract number?
- What is the complete RFID/Alt-Id of the piece in question if applicable and type of material?
- What is the actual HiCams error message?



"Everything has to come from an approved supplier but...Who is an approved supplier? If in doubt contact M&T for approval...or visit the NCDOT APL at: [NCDOT Vendor Approved Products](#)

Metal Products: The Buy America Act

The Buy America Act applies to ALL iron and steel products permanently incorporated into a Federal-Aid or State funded project, regardless of how they were produced.

➤ *Temporary VS Permanent Incorporation*

Permanent incorporation includes items specified in the contract that will remain in place at the end of the project.

Items are considered temporary even if they are included in the contract documents, but for all practical purposes, are removed during any subsequent phase of the project.

Note the Buy America Act is not the same as BABA, which will be discussed in a future issue.

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RFID Tracking



Change can be difficult and often resisted. The implementation of RFID Tracking of Manufactured Products has been around since 2016 and will continue to expand into other products as NCDOT continues to grow. The recent change in the way Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) is inspected and received being one of the most difficult transitions to date.

Before RFID tracking started: Would you install RCP **without** a NCDOT stamp?



RFID TAGS DO NOT REPRESENT APPROVAL

RFID tags are a serial number for a product and the approval of the product needs to be verified before the product can be used on a NCDOT project or any project where Federal or State funds are attached.

If you have a topic you would like to see in a future issue of the M&T Bulletin, please email us at: rnbravo@ncdot.gov

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