

What does the “Accepted for Field Trial” status mean?

An “Accepted for Field Trial” status means that the Technical Work Group evaluating the product would like to see the product used in the field prior to assigning it a final status. Products with this status are still considered under evaluation and are therefore not approved for widespread use on Department projects. This status allows the product to be placed on a small number (typically 1 or 2) projects and monitored so its performance can be recorded. A final status will be assigned to the product at the end of the field trial.

How will my product get placed on a project?

The Product Evaluation Program will not actively promote the installation of the product. It is the manufacturers or distributors responsibility to find a project to be placed on and obtain Department permission to be used on the project. The product should be placed on a NCDOT project, however, placement on a municipal project may be allowed on a case by case basis. To help find a project for your product, see the FAQ for further guidance.

My product is scheduled to be placed on a project, now what?

Once your product is scheduled to be placed on a project, you should follow the steps outlined below.

1. Provide the Product Evaluation Program the information listed below. This information is needed for tracking purposes and the Product Evaluation Program engineers may be available to observe the installation as schedules allow.
 - a. Product ID (NPXX-XXXX)
 - b. TIP and/or contract number of the project
 - c. Contact information of the project’s Resident Engineer
 - d. Planned date of the installation
2. On the date of the installation, record details about the installation including the specific locations in which it was placed, the conditions in which it was placed, who performed the installation, and take pictures of the installation if possible. Forward this information to the Product Evaluation Program.
3. After the product has been in place for a sufficient amount of time (typically one year), the vendor is responsible for developing a field trial performance report to submit to the Product Evaluation Program. This report at a minimum should include the following:
 - a. Performance summary
 - b. Note of any failures with a failure analysis
 - c. Pictures of the product
4. Once the field trial performance report is received by the Product Evaluation Program, it will be distributed to the Technical Work Group for review. Once a status recommendation is made, the Approved Products List will be updated and you will be notified of the status of your product.

What happens if the product isn’t installed on a project?

The Product Evaluation Program will remove the product from the evaluation process if a field trial performance report is not received within 3 years of receiving the “Accepted for Field Trial” status. Since the product needs to be in the field for typically one calendar year, the product vendor has two years after receiving the “Accepted for Field Trial” status to have the product installed on a project. The Product Evaluation Program reserves the right to make exceptions to these deadlines on a case by case basis. Resources to assist you finding a project are provided in the FAQ.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why am I required to have a field trial?

A: Technical Work Groups will require field trials for a variety of reasons. If the type of product is new to the Department or if there is no testing criteria for the product then a field trial is one way to evaluate its real world performance.

Q: How should the field trial performance report be formatted?

A: There is no standard format for the field trial performance report. The report will be accepted if all requested information is included and the report is clear.

Q: How can I locate a project to be used on?

A: Resources to help with marketing and outreach efforts are provided below:

- The table of contents for the NCDOT directory. Division Maintenance engineers and County Maintenance Engineers are contacts which may investigate using certain products for maintenance projects.
<https://apps.ncdot.gov/dot/directory/authenticated/ToC.aspx>
- A brief guide for doing business with NCDOT.
<https://www.ncdot.gov/business/>
- Prequalified contractors and sub-contractors list. This list will provide the names of companies that have been pre-qualified to perform work with NCDOT.
<https://www.ebs.nc.gov/VendorDirectory/search.html?s=pbs&a=new>
- The pre-qualification process. If your product requires special installation that can only be performed by a company which is not pre-qualified with the NCDOT then the instructions for becoming pre-qualified can be found here.
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/Prequal/Pages/Subcontractor.aspx>
- Central and Division Office letting pages. These links provide a list of all recently awarded projects as well as projects which will open for bid in the near future.
Central Projects: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx>
Division Projects: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Division.aspx>
Design-Build Projects: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Design-Build.aspx>