



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

Gregory A. Whirley
Commissioner
August 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Administrators
Central Office Division Administrators

FROM: Charles A. Babish, P. E., State Materials Engineer *cab*

SUBJECT: Changes to the Materials Certification School Program

This letter serves as notification of several programmatic changes in the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Materials Certification Schools (MCS) Program in 2013. The changes described below will become effective January 1, 2013.

1. MARTCP (Mid-Atlantic Regional Technician Certification Program) –

VDOT is withdrawing from active participation in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Technician Certification Program (MARTCP) and will no longer give reciprocity to certifications issued by MARTCP or the regional State DOT member organizations, effective January 1, 2013. This decision considered the following factors;

- Although MARTCP conceptually is attractive in terms of perceived benefits to DOT's such as a regional certification program and regional specifications, etc., these benefits never materialized from VDOT's perspective since the program began over 10 years ago.
- Today's market place and industry innovations are very dynamic often requiring review and modifications to processes and specifications to keep pace with technology and innovation.
- VDOT is currently making use of nationally recognized certifications and is considering expanding utilization of such certifications, such as certifications issued by the American Concrete Institute (ACI), Precast Concrete Institute (PCI), and NICET. We believe these types of certification programs have greater potential to transcend an individual's credentials, limit impacts on our existing resources, and provide a larger pool of talented individuals in the marketplace.

Current VDOT Letters of Reciprocity for MARTCP certified individuals will remain valid until the expiration of the MARTCP or state DOT certification that the letter of reciprocal certification is based on.

At time of expiration, the individual certified will need to obtain the applicable VDOT Materials Certification to remain certified.

2. *NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) –*

VDOT will recognize NICET Construction Materials Testing Level II Certification in Soils. Individuals possessing a current NICET Construction Materials Testing Level II Certification in Soils will not need to obtain a VDOT Soils and Aggregate Compaction Certification. Similarly, VDOT will recognize NICET Construction Materials Testing Level II Certification in Concrete. Individuals possessing a current NICET Construction Materials Testing Level II Certification in Concrete will not need to obtain a VDOT Concrete Field Certification. Individuals not possessing a current NICET certification described above, have the option of obtaining the prescribed NICET certification or the applicable VDOT certification.

3. *Asphalt Certifications –*

VDOT Asphalt Field and Plant Certifications will be split into two separate Levels of certification. Changes in the current VDOT Asphalt Field and Plant certifications are described below.

Asphalt Field School - Level 1: This certification class is designed to provide fundamental concepts regarding proper asphalt mix placement and construction methods to achieve quality. The targeted audience includes roller operators, paver operators, crew foreman, superintendents, density technicians, VDOT construction inspection personnel, and VDOT materials quality assurance personnel. Successful completion of a written examination is required to obtain the VDOT Asphalt Field Level 1 Certification.

Asphalt Field School - Level 2: Asphalt Field Level 1 is a prerequisite for this certification. This certification class is designed to build on Asphalt Field Level 1 concepts and includes proper methods for field quality control, as well as sampling and testing of asphalt mixes in the field. The targeted audience includes field personnel directly responsible for control, placement and testing of asphalt including density technicians, paving superintendents, VDOT construction inspection personnel, VDOT materials quality assurance personnel, and VDOT Land Use Permit Inspection staff.

Successful completion of a written examination is required to obtain the VDOT Asphalt Field Level 2 Certification. In addition to successful completion of the written examination, individuals responsible for density testing of asphalt mixes must demonstrate proficiency in conducting density testing as part of VDOT Materials Independent Assurance process. This proficiency review will be conducted randomly throughout the year through site visits to projects by VDOT District Materials representatives.

VDOT will be revising specifications such that Contractor paving superintendents and density technicians will be required to possess a VDOT Asphalt Field Level 2 certification.

All individuals possessing a current VDOT Asphalt Field Certification will be granted both Asphalt Field Level I & II certifications on January 1, 2013. At time of expiration, individuals will have the option to obtain Asphalt Field Level 1 or 2.

Asphalt Plant School - Level 1: This certification class is designed to provide fundamental concepts regarding asphalt mix production processes, equipment, stockpile management and proper sampling techniques. The targeted audience consists of loader operators, plant operators, plant production staff, technicians performing mix sampling, and VDOT Materials quality assurance personnel. Successful completion of a written examination is required to obtain the VDOT Asphalt Plant Level 1 Certification.

Contractor personnel responsible for sampling of asphalt mixtures at the production facility will be required to possess an Asphalt Plant Level 1 certification. Specifications will be revised to reflect this requirement. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor's current VDOT certified Mix Design Technician to ensure Contractor personnel certified as Level 1 are proficient.

Asphalt Plant School - Level 2: Asphalt Plant Level 1 is a prerequisite for this certification. This certification class is designed to expand on the fundamental concepts presented in the Asphalt Plant Level 1 class to include material quality control aspects, sampling for laboratory testing, proper laboratory testing methods. The targeted audience includes plant production personnel responsible for sampling and testing material for specification compliance, VDOT Materials quality assurance personnel, and VDOT Materials laboratory testing personnel. Successful completion of a written examination is required to obtain the VDOT Asphalt Plant Level 2 Certification.

Contractor personnel responsible for sampling and testing of asphalt mixtures at the production facility for specification compliance will be required to possess an Asphalt Plant Level 2 certification. Specifications will be revised to reflect this requirement. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor's current VDOT certified Mix Design Technician to ensure Contractor personnel certified as Level 2 are proficient.

All individuals possessing a current VDOT Asphalt Plant Certification will be granted both Asphalt Plant Level I & II certifications on January 1, 2013. At time of expiration, individuals will have the option to obtain Asphalt Plant Level 1 or 2.

Again, the changes described above are effective January 1, 2013. If you have any questions regarding the changes discussed herein, you may contact Mr. Duane Sayre, at 804-328-3150.

Cc: Mr. Malcolm T. Kerley, P.E., Chief Engineer
Ms. Constance Sorrell, Chief of Operations
Central Office Materials
District Materials Engineers
District Maintenance Engineers
District Construction Engineers
Mr. Jose Granado, FHWA
Virginia Asphalt Association

Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
Precast Concrete Assoc. of Virginia
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance
Virginia Dept. of Minority Business Enterprise
Federal Highway Administration
American Concrete Paving Association
NE Chapter, Southern Region
Old Dominion Highway Contractors Assoc.