



August 6, 2003

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360-705-7101

SUBJECT: **Project Delivery Memo #03-03--SE Test Procedure and Specifications**

**Purpose and Direction**

**Background:** In August of 1999, changes were made to the Sand Equivalent (SE) test procedure that was intended to standardize the procedure with AASHTO test procedures using the "wet" method of sample preparation. The change in procedure resulted in changes in SE test results and the SE requirements were statistically adjusted in an attempt to compensate for the difference. The intent was not to eliminate material sources that had been approved under the previous test procedure. Unfortunately, the impact of the change was greater than expected for some sources and resulted in failing test results on material that would have passed by the previous test method.

A task force of WSDOT and industry representatives met to discuss the issue and propose a solution. The consensus of the task force was that the procedure and specifications for SE should be revised deleting the wet method of sample preparation and using an oven-dry sample preparation method. A copy of the new test procedure is available on the website using the following link:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/fasc/EngineeringPublications/Manuals/ProcedureT176.pdf>

Corresponding to the change in test procedure for determining the SE value, the SE requirements will be changed in the Standard Specifications, reverting to the previous values used before the August 1999 changes. The changes to the aggregate specifications will be part of the amendment package included in projects advertised after August 4, 2003.

**Types of Projects Affected:** Projects with surfacing or paving, or using any backfill or borrow material will be affected by this change.

**Direction:** For consistency across the state and to minimize confusion, the new test procedure and specifications should be implemented immediately.

**Value in Making the Change:** The change in the test procedure will be more consistent with the AASHTO test procedure for determining SE and will correct some inequities created in the way WSDOT previously evaluated aggregate quality.

### **Action Requested**

#### **Project Development**

Projects currently under development will require no changes, and projects advertised after August 4, 2003, would have the correct amendment that revises the required SE values.

#### **Contract Ad and Award**

For projects currently being advertised for bids, the new amendment should be added by addendum, if it is possible to do so without impacting the date of bid opening.

#### **Construction**

All construction offices should implement the revised SE test procedure as soon as possible, using the procedure available on the above noted website. Where it may be appropriate, the August 4, 2003, amendments to Sections 9-00.8 and applicable portions of 9-03 should be added to current contracts by change order. This memo may be considered as HQ Construction approval of a change to the specifications. The Regions may execute the change orders. The change order should result in no increased contract cost, and SE test results are not expected to reflect any increase in the number of failing samples. There will be additional time required in performing the test procedure due to the requirement to dry the samples.

DN:jrs/cd  
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cc: Tom Baker	Harold Peterfeso
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Kevin Dayton	Jim Walter