



Florida Department of Transportation

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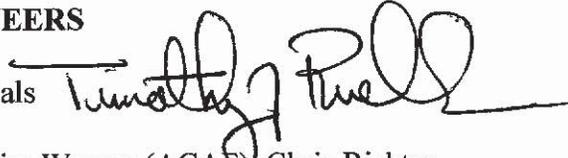
June 12, 2012

**** Expired ****

MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 09-12

(FHWA Approved 06/12/12)

TO: DISTRICT MATERIALS RESEARCH ENGINEERS

FROM: Timothy J. Ruelke, P.E., Director, Office of Materials 

COPIES: Tom Byron, Dave Sadler, Bob Burluson (FTBA), Jim Warren (ACAF), Chris Richter (FHWA), Chad Thompson (FHWA), Heather Dean (FHWA), Rafiq Darji (FHWA)

SUBJECT: Pit Sampling

This memo is intended to clarify the role of the District Materials Offices (DMO) in the evaluation of material brought to Department projects from off site.

Subarticle 120-1.1 of the Specifications require the Contractor to use suitable excavated material or authorized borrow to prepare subgrades and foundations. It also requires the Contractor to construct embankment in compliance with Standard Index 505 and the Specifications.

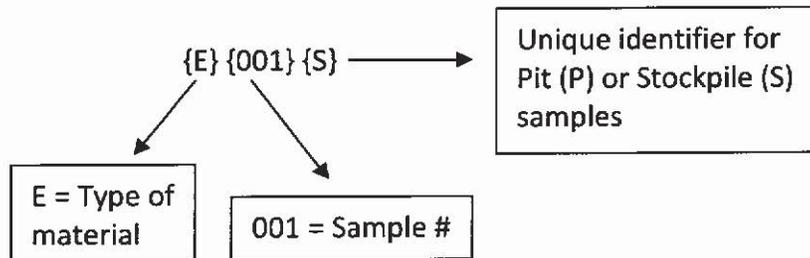
The Department and the Contractor must perform sufficient sampling and testing to assure compliance. Ultimately, it is the material in-place at the project that must pass Department requirements. Any samples taken in advance of final placement are designed to reduce the Contractor's risk of incurring transportation and placement costs for material that may ultimately fail the in-place requirements. As a result, pit sampling of materials should be considered an "as requested" partnering activity.

If the Project Administer (PA) requests the DMO to sample a pit, a DMO representative will visit the pit and acquire representative samples of the material likely to be used on the project. The DMO will test the material and report the results in Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

If the material fails, the Contractor or the PA may request the DMO representative return to the pit for another sampling event. When taking the samples, the DMO representative will offer to perform a split with the Contractor's representative. One half would be given to the Contractor's representative for their testing and one half would be run by the Department's Resolution lab.

The resolution lab will not process the Resolution sample unless the Contractors representative furnishes their results and identifies the laboratory that performed the tests. If the Resolution lab result does not match the Contractor's representative's result, then the DMO may inspect the Contractor's representative's lab. The Resolution lab will report the results in LIMS.

The Department will enter samples in the LIMS database at the IV level as follows:



Sample Prefix Chart			
Material	Material ID	Governing Specification	Prefix
Embankment & Pipe Backfill	004	120	E
Geosynthetic Backfill	251	145	G
Subgrade	020	160	S
Local Stabilizing Material	440	160	C
RAP Base	054	283	R
Base or Granular Subbase	032	285	B
MSE Backfill	092	548	M
Finish Soil Layer	330	162	T

Regardless of the results of any pit sampling, the Department requires passing test results from samples taken from the in-place material at the roadway.

This direction is intended to minimize resource demands on the Department, retain the assurance that the in-place material is acceptable, and continue our partnering relationship with the construction industry.