



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

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Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Paul A. Mattox, Jr., P. E.
Secretary of Transportation/
Commissioner of Highways

November 13, 2015

Mr. Pat Parsons
Asphalt Pavement Association of
West Virginia
2114 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25311

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Recent changes have been made to the Technician Inspector Certification Program (TCIP). The changes conflict with, and may seem confusing to, recent correspondence that the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) has issued in regards to various certifications and respective renewals. We apologize for any confusion that the changes are causing as it relates to previous correspondence.

The information in this letter will address the changes to the Asphalt Field Technician and the Compaction Technician certifications only.

- a) Asphalt Compaction will be removed from the Compaction Technician class and added to the Asphalt Field Technician (AFT) class. This will result in changing the name of the "*Asphalt Field Technician*" certification to the "*Asphalt Field and Compaction Technician*" (AFCT) certification.
- b) Section 401.6 of the Standard Specifications Roads and Bridges is being updated to require a technician performing asphalt compaction testing on paving projects to hold the AFT certification. This specification change will be included in a 2016 Supplemental Specifications manual and be in effect for the 2016 construction season.
- c) For the 2016 and 2017 construction seasons, technicians that hold a current AFT certification or Compaction certification may continue testing asphalt compaction.
 1. This option ends December 31, 2017.
 2. We plan to cycle these technicians through the recertification process over the next two years.
- d) Additionally, the revision to Section 401.6 requires each paving crew to have an AFT certified member during paving operations. This technician is intended to ensure best practices in the field.

- e) Please be advised that the WVDOH realizes there is a transition period to allow for the current AFT and Asphalt Compaction certifications to be fully merged into the AFCT certification. Thus some “grandfathering” will be allowed as this transition relates to bullets “b” and “d” above, and shall be as follows:
1. Current certified compaction technicians can still perform asphalt testing until December 31, 2017.
 2. Any technician with the AFT certification that does not hold the combined compaction certification will meet the requirements of the 401.6 Specification change until December 31, 2017.
- f) The new AFCT certification will be retested and renewed on a two year cycle.
1. Technicians that wish to renew their AFCT certification must pass the written and practical exams to recertify.
 2. Applicants will have the opportunity to recertify by obtaining a score of 70% on the written exam and passing the practical exam.
 3. If the applicant receives a failing score, the AFCT class must be retaken to renew their certification.
- g) The WVDOH plans to begin offering the recertification test in December 2015. This first round of testing is optional; however, it will become required for a randomly selected portion of the AFTs next year.
- h) The WVDOH plans to offer the next AFCT class in January 2016. This will allow any individual that may fail the AFCT recertification test an opportunity to take the class and retest along with any new individuals seeking the certification.
- i) Due to combining the asphalt compaction certification with the AFCT, the former “*Compaction Technician*” certification’s title will be changed to “*Soil and Aggregate Compaction Technician*” certification.

Again, the WVDOH understands that the changes may be confusing and are happening at a very quick pace. However, we also feel that the changes are needed to keep up with an ever and quickly changing industry. We appreciate the opportunity of working with your members in ensuring that we get the best asphalt solutions for our roadway system for the State Of West Virginia.

Additional information regarding the dates, locations, times, etc. for testing will follow in the near future. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Terry Burns at 304-558-9883.

Very truly yours,



Ronald L. Stanevich, P. E.
Director
Materials Control, Soils and Testing Division