



Purpose

To provide guidance to Construction Project Office Staff that will assist in ensuring that statistical analysis calculations, and the resulting incentive/disincentive payments, for HMA mixture and HMA compaction are calculated by SAM in accordance with the correct contract specifications.

Background

Beginning with the 2018 paving season, changes to specification requirements that affect HMA compaction and binder content are being phased in incrementally, each year, over a four year time frame. The goal of these changes is to increase the service life of our HMA by at least one year. We are implementing these changes incrementally over four years to provide time needed by industry to adjust means and methods to successfully meet the new requirements.

Changing specs so frequently creates a challenge for staff responsible for entering and evaluating HMA test results, making sure that HMA data is being evaluated - and ensuring that incentive/disincentive payments are being made - in accordance with each contract. Offices administering multi-season HMA projects advertised in 2017 and 2018 along with projects advertised in 2019 could be dealing with as many as three different specifications during the 2019 paving season.

Guidance

The key to ensuring that you are following the correct specification when performing statistical evaluation and making the incentive/disincentive payments is to make sure the settings in SAM are correctly set to match the requirements of the contract. It is easy to see what the SAM setting for HMA evaluation is for a particular contract by looking at what is indicated in the drop-down list for "Material". For example, if the material drop-down list shows "Class 3/8 inch, 9-03.8(7) – 2018", SAM is using what is referred to as the 2018 settings. A drop-down indicating "Class 3/8 inch, 9-03.8(7) – 2019" indicates the 2019 settings are being used, and so on.

The difficulty arises in determining which "year" in the "Material" setting is required by your contract. It is not the Spec Book year, because these changes have been made by amendments and in some cases by Special Provision. The only way to correctly identify the setting year is by following the instructions for the following table.

Instructions for Determining Which Spec Year to use in SAM for Evaluating HMA Mixture and Compaction

1. Find the values in your Contract for each of the specs listed in the table below. Be sure to look in the Amendments to the Standard Specs and in the Special Provisions to see if any changes have been made to the Standard Specs.
2. Compare the values in your contract to those in the table below. Find the column in the table below that exactly matches all the values in your contract. Find the spec year at the top of that column. If your contract does not exactly match all of the values in one of the columns, contact Bob Dyer or Garrett Webster.
3. Look at the “Material” drop-down list in SAM. The spec year indicated by SAM must be the same as the one you determined from your contract and the table below. If they don’t match, change the SAM pic-list item so it matches the spec year determined from the Table.

Field Acceptance – HMA Spec Changes: Mixture and Compaction				
SPEC	SPEC REQUIREMENT	2016	2018	2019
9-03.8(7)	VMA Tolerance	N/A	-1.5%	-1.0%
9-03.8(7)	Binder Tolerance	-0.5% to +0.5%	-0.4% to +0.5%	-0.4% to +0.5%
2016: 5-04.3(10)B1 2018 & 2019: 5-04.3(10)C3	Compaction Lower Spec Limit - disincentive	91.0	91.0	91.5
2016: 5-04.3(10)B1 2018 & 2019: 5-04.3(10)C3	Compaction Lower Spec Limit - incentive	91.0	91.5	92.0
2016: 5-04.5(1)B 2018 & 2019: 5-04.3(10)C3	Compaction Price Adj. Factor - Disincentive	0.40	0.40	0.60
2016: 5-04.5(1)B 2018 & 2019: 5-04.3(10)C3	Compaction Price Adj. Factor - Incentive	0.40	0.80	1.00

Additional Information

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