



Highway Construction Materials Technician CERTIFICATION BOARD NEWSLETTER

January, 2012

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ODOT Quality Assurance Program.
RHCMTs will be evaluated by ODOT personnel.

Electronic communication implemented.
Enrollments, reminders, and invoices are now sent by email.

Disciplined RHCMTs.
Board Hearings result in suspensions.



RHCMTs and the ODOT Quality Assurance Program (QAP)

Systems Based Approach to Independent Assurance

Under the new guidelines, Independent Assurance (IA) personnel will be evaluating equipment and technicians in order to verify the reliability of the data generated for materials acceptance. RHCMTs will be selected for evaluation at random or by other criteria deemed reasonable and prudent by ODOT.

Cooperation between RHCMTs and IA representatives is crucial. Refusal to participate or a lack of cooperation will have negative consequences such as a formal complaint to the Board which could result in disciplinary action including suspension or revocation of certifications. RHCMTs are encouraged to read pages 24-29 of the QAP document at:

<http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/materials/pdfs-iaprog/QAPL002.pdf>.

Alternate Re-certification Method for Experienced RHCMTs

Technicians applying for their fourth re-certification (14+ continuous years) will have an option to use the field evaluations from ODOT IA personnel to satisfy the performance evaluation requirements normally demonstrated during a certification module. The IA evaluations must have been conducted within 18 months of the expiration date of certification in the pertinent discipline. Contact the HCMTCB Program Director for more information.



Electronic Communication System

Beginning in the fall of 2011, an improved data base design resulted in a format and delivery change for enrollment verifications, reminders, and invoices. Upon enrollment in a module, a confirmation email is generated and sent to both the participant and the organization's accounting representative. The body of the email contains important information about the module as well as an invoice in the form of a pdf attachment. The week before the module begins, a reminder email is generated and sent to all participants enrolled. The date the reminder is sent is also the *last date to withdraw* from the module and receive a refund or credit for the fee. It is imperative that all enrollees have access to, and regularly check for, emails received from the Training Center.

Under development is another reminder that will notify RHCMTs by email one year before a current certification is set to expire. This will allow ample time to get enrolled in any desired training and certification modules before the expiration dates. It will be especially helpful in reminding technicians certified in Soils, Concrete, or Asphalt when their Aggregates certifications are about to expire. Remember, an RHCMT must maintain certification in Aggregates for the three above mentioned certifications to remain valid.

It has also been suggested that supervisors may wish to receive copies of the aforementioned emails. Organizations interested in this feature may contact the Training Center and have the supervisor's email address added to the data base.

Disciplined RHCMTs

Charlie Reeves - Registration No. 2051 - Suspended through November, 2016.

The Board found that Mr. Reeves knowingly entered results for OHD L-26 into the SiteManager record which were not representative of the number and size of samples required but were, instead, copied from the test results of other samples.

Justin W. Hall - Registration No. 3173 - Suspended for six months through January 27, 2012.

The Board found that Mr. Hall knowingly submitted test results for OHD L-14 that were not representative of an asphalt core sample as reported to the Project Engineer. An incorrect calculation of the percent absorption was reported in order to avoid a retest by OHD L-45 as required by the specifications.

Summary

- ODOT's IA personnel will be evaluating RHCMTs in the field and labs.
- RHCMTs applying for a fourth consecutive certification may satisfy the performance requirement with IA evaluations.
- Correspondence with technicians and organizations shifts to automated emails.

Question or feedback about this newsletter? Contact Steve Sawyer at (405) 632-8022 or ssawyer@odot.org.