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420-02-09

Concrete Paving
Dowel Basket Acceptance and
Payment for Stored Material

All District Engineers / Administrator

Michael M. Ryan, P.E. /s/ GLH for MMR
Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration

Last year, we had significant issues with Force Transfer Units, (dowel baskets), having inadequate bond breaker at the time of paving. The situation was addressed on a case by case basis for each project and I want to thank you for your diligence to quality on this matter.

There were two factors that contributed to the problem. One was that the bond breaker (currently Tectyl) loses its effectiveness over time. The other was that the quality control procedures at the manufacturing facilities had opportunities for improvement. The quality control procedures have been rectified.

Therefore, we need to minimize the time that bond breaker (currently Tectyl) is on the Force Transfer Units prior to incorporation in the pavement. I am making the determination per Section 110.06, that Force Transfer Units, Specification Section 705.3, qualify for payment as stored material provided the materials are stored indoors at the manufacturer's site and meet the requirements of Section 705.3(a) 1. This material can be paid at 90% of the invoice price as stored materials. 10% is to be retained to cover shipping, coating, and testing.

The certifications that accompany the invoices must identify Publication 408 Section 705.3(a)1 and, in the area under LOT NO / QUANTITY, the following statement must be provided, "All units will be stored indoors. Bond breaker will be applied and tested per AASHTO M 254 just prior to shipping."

We are also addressing the bond breaker shelf life by proposing a Specification change to Section 705.3(d) by adding: "Certifications for 705.3(a)3.b Bondbreaking Requirements, Type B, are only valid for 6 months after the application of the coating and in the same calendar year as the application. Material exceeding the 6 months time frame after the application of the coating or in a different calendar year from the coating application are to be retested by the contractor according to AASHTO M 254." This will preclude winter layover of dowel baskets.

This information will be added to the Project Office Manual Section B-2-3-1.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Gardiner at 717-787-4794.

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