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## Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Matthew R. Strizich, P.E.  
Materials Engineer

Date: October 3, 2006

Subject: Density Acceptance by Cores

This Construction Memo provides guidance for the uniform administration of the Density Acceptance by Cores provisions.

Recently there have been numerous instances where requirements outlined in the Density Acceptance by Cores specifications have been ignored by the contractor. Violations include cutting cores to partial depth of the lift thickness and rolling of the area to be tested once all rolling was supposed to be complete. If these violations occur under a current contract the EPM needs to issue an immediate shutdown notice for all paving operations. The shutdown should remain in effect until the issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the EPM. Deal with the improperly taken cores on a case-by-case basis.

To help avoid issues with identifying the lift line location, MDT inspectors need to mark cores on the lift line and ensure the contractor cuts the core as closely as possible to the mark. The new specials define as closely as possible to be within 4 mm. Trimming of loose gravel from the first lift of plant mix over a gravel surfacing is allowed to a depth approved by the EPM.

The revised versions of the Grade S Volumetric, Grade S Non-volumetric, and Grade D Commercial Special Provisions provide a process for dealing with these issues in the future. These revised specials will be included in all jobs starting with the November 2006 letting and will not require an immediate shutdown.

For assistance or questions related to this, please contact the District's Construction Engineering Services Reviewer.

Density Acceptance by Cores

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District Administrators District Construction Engineers  
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Construction Engineering Services Bureau Scott Barnes, PE - Materials  
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