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JOSEPH E. KERNAN, Governor
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Writer's Direct Line

October 14, 2004

MEMORANDUM
04-13

To: District Directors
Toll Road Operations Engineers
District Construction Engineers
District Area Engineers
Project Engineers/Supervisors
District Materials & Tests Engineers
District Development Engineers

FROM: Dennis A. Kuchler, Chief
Contracts and Construction Division *D. Kuchler*

RE: Specification Change for MSE Wall Panel Cores

It has come to the attention of this office that the use of 2 inch diameter cores currently specified for the random verification sampling of MSE wall panels is resulting in compressive strength test results that may be invalid. It has been determined that 4 inch diameter cores provide samples that are representative of the actual compressive strengths of the panels. Therefore, the requirement in the recurring special provision for MSE walls, 731-R-202, has been revised to reflect the 4 inch cores rather than the 2 inch cores.

Effective immediately, all projects that specify MSE walls must be revised to require 4 inch cores unless the coring has already occurred. If that is the case, the contractor may appeal failing results for 2 inch cores; however, all resamples will consist of 4 inch cores. New projects with MSE walls should call for recurring special provision 731-R-202 dated October 12, 2004. Random verification samples are required for each lot of panels on all projects.

DAK:dls

cc: Gary Mrocza, Design Division Chief