

September 24, 1999

MEMORANDUM 99-13

TO: District Directors District Construction Engineers
Toll Road Operations Engineer District Materials and Testing Engineers
District Area Engineers Project Engineers/Supervisors

FROM: Timothy D. Bertram, Chief Timothy D. Bertram
Contracts and Construction Division

Subject: Bridge Painting in the Field

There has been conversation in this office and with the Materials and Tests Division, about the bridge painting specifications. There has been an issue brought up on several contracts that the weather limitations as shown in the specifications are too restrictive. The specifications do not allow field painting between November 15 and April 1, painting can begin only when the 24 h ambient temperature is to remain above 50 degrees F etc. This can limit a Contractor in some seasons or areas of the state to not starting till the middle of May and needing to shut down operations in the middle of September.

The current specifications allow the Contractor to vary from the weather limitations below the minimum or above the maximum temperature or humidity as may be recommended by the manufacturer, as long as it is provided for in the Contractor's Quality Control Plan (QCP).

This office feels that is in the best interest of all involved to allow Contractors on contracts that did not contain the current specification and did not allow for a QCP, to now give these Contractors the chance to submit a QCP in accordance with ITM 803. This change will only be allowed with no change to the contract unit prices. If the Contractor is willing to do this, INDOT will allow the contractors to vary from the weather specifications according to manufacturers recommendations and as documented in the Contractor's QCP.

INDOT will need to assure that the QCPs are contract and site specific and not general in nature. This is true for all requirements of the QCP.

With regards to painting below the minimum or above the maximum temperatures, the Contractors will need to be specific as to what special methods will be used to assure a proper application and product.

In manufacturers paint specifications there is usually a normal range of temperatures for material, surfaces, ambient and humidity, as well as minimums and maximums. They also state in some way that "Special thinning and application techniques may be required above or below normal conditions." The Contractor shall thoroughly cover what will be done special to accommodate painting outside of the normal conditions. If the Contractor does not intend to take special

measures, then an explanation shall be supplied as to why it is felt that special measures are not necessary.

The QCP for field painting as with any other, needs to be approved by INDOT before the start of the painting operations.

If you should have any questions on this change, contact your Field Engineer.

TDB:ggp

CC: FHWA
ICI
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Materials and Tests
File