

July 29, 2002

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

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

SUBJECT: Making and Curing "Opening to Traffic" Beams

At recent meetings of the 500 Specification Re-Write Committee, a concern has been brought up about certain concrete paving projects curing "Opening to Traffic" beams differently.

The concern was that some project engineers/supervisors are allowing the beams that they make for governing the opening of the pavement slab to traffic, to be cured for the first 24 hours in the laboratory trailer, just like the QC/QA (production control and acceptance) beams.

Our "GIFE" which is currently being re-written, covers the making and curing of flexural strength beams in Section 44. The current write up is correct for both QC/QA and non-QC/QA concrete projects. The opening to traffic beams are to always be cured in the same manner as the concrete they represent for the first 24 hours.

Our current specification which deals with QC/QA concrete (Section 502) states that the field laboratory which is climate controlled is for curing production and acceptance beams only, not opening to traffic beams (Section 502.06, line 250).

It has been decided by the 500 Committee that the opening to traffic beams may be made at the same time and location that the production and acceptance beams are made, if the technician so desires; however they usually are made at or near the paving spread.

TDB:DAK:pl