

SSM Conference Call - Minutes
November 20, 2014
3:00 PM Eastern Time

Conference Call Attendees:

Jim Swisher, VA DOT
Katherine Watkins, VA DOT
Jason Davis, LA DOTD
Dave Kuniega, PA DOT
Julie Lamberson, MO DOT
Ting Nahrwold, IN DOT
Matt Hills, Avery Dennison
Katheryn Malusky, NTPEP
Henry Lacinak – AASHTO

Purpose of Conference Call

Update on DM 3.0 and current work for TC

1. Update on DM 3.0

- Conf Call held Sept. 2, 2014 - design info sent to I-Eng & AASHTO Oct.3, 2014
- Meta data still being sent to I-Engineering.
- Still accepting any suggestions on improvements.
- States and Industry will have a chance to review new module on staging server. SSM module completion has now been scheduled after 3 other module designs (GTX/REGEO, HDPE PIPE, RSCP).

2. In-house QC testing of HIP samples (5 panels for each lab from Virginia DOT)

- Must be tested each time samples are tested for in-house review and data to be sent to VA DOT.
- New standard spreadsheet sent out for HIP/QC data entry.
- QC data not currently published.
- Mr. Kuniega suggested reviewing SSC format for QC reporting.

3. Oct 1, 2014 release of data to MFGRs

- Multiple concerns on validity of testing results from MFGRs. Lead state and testing states worked many extra hours (10 hours) on rechecks of data, retesting samples, data entry, and correspondence. Lead state and AASHTO looking into invoicing MFGRs for retests per SOP.
- 30-day clock issues during final days of review time - MFGR requested withdrawal of products by AASHTO two days before time limit expired. AASHTO did not respond in time and private data was auto-released to the public. AASHTO withdrew products immediately when advised by MFGR of erroneous release.
- Suggestion given to require 3 day lead time to AASHTO and VDOT for any time-sensitive action. TC to discuss further.
- AASHTO and lead state reminded MFGRs to review data as soon as released.
- Export spreadsheet was designed to expedite MFGRs data review but MFGRs are still running against the clock with reviews.
- Further discussion on best order to release data. MFGRs want data released at one time to enable data comparison between states.
- Sharing of Round Robin data may eliminate MFGRs uncertainty of variation between state lab testing.

4. Dec (6 month) testing coming up.

- Lead state reminder to all test states to be prepared.

5. Round Robin Testing

- Unknown sample to be included in next round.
- Samples to be tested by MFGRs.

- Request to MFGR to present plans for RR data handling and publishing. Industry interested in variability of data between labs. Industry volunteered to work on a statistical package and format to publish data. TC will review stats package and publishing format before releasing RR data to Industry.
- ASTM E810 precision & bias work still in progress (estimate 2 years away).
- Other P&B work being done on Portable Retro and Color instruments.

6. Open Discussion

- A. Sheeting Identification Task Group
 - PA DOT has equipment to take photo micrographs of sheeting.
 - Discussion on need to define what level of magnification and details needed in photograph. Industry invited to provide information. Industry advised different MFGRs may not agree on revealing details of sheeting design.
 - FHWA-type photos for identification may be a good start for discussion.
 - PADOT may be able to provide some example photographs to consider options.
- B. Photographing samples to show sheeting degradation
 - This may be considered on an as-needed basis but not recommended for all samples. This to be discussed in TC.
- C. RUP Sign Testing
 - Question asked - why test for 1 year when ASTM standard lists 6-months?
 - RUP 1-year report is considered "supplemental" – 6 month report is published as the main report.
 - Some DOTs want to review 1 year data since RUPs are used for several years.
- D. Different rotational angle testing discussed.
 - Angles used in NTPEP testing are currently tied to ASTM geometries.
 - AASHTO M268 now includes testing at 0, 45, 90, and 120 degree rotational angles (at 0.5/-4) on new sheeting.
 - If rotational sensitivity is an issue, DOTs will need to either not approve some sheeting or advise sign shops to orient sheeting (using datum marks) to reduce retro inconsistency.