



**AASHTO NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRODUCT EVALUATION PROGRAM  
SIGN SHEETING MATERIALS(SSM) - TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Greenville, South Carolina  
Monday – May 19, 2014, Working Session # 2  
12:40-2:00PM**

**MINUTES**

1. Introduction of Panel Members - Chairman – Jim Swisher, Vice Chair/Secretary – Jason Davis  
Jim provided a brief overview of the SSM and RUP processes and showed slides of the fabrication process for SSM in Virginia.
2. AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials (SOM) Liaison Report (Henry Lacinak)  
AASHTO, M-268 was re-balloted in 2013. The balloted version includes modifications listed below:
  - Aluminum substrate thickness
  - Minimum sheeting area of the sample
  - Use of isopropyl alcohol for cleaning aluminum sign blanks.
  - Color testing (delta E values for multiple lots used on the same sign)
  - Opaque films shall be acrylic.
3. Welcome to new personnel from AZDOT – Bill Hurguy and staff
4. State DOT testing personnel were recognized.
5. Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting - Pittsburg, PA and 2013-2014 Conference Calls. The minutes of the meetings and conference calls are available on NTPEP/SSM web site.
6. ASTM Liaison Report (Jason Davis) - Fluorescent pink specifications for color and retroreflectivity will be published in the next edition, but none of the changes will require changes to the NTPEP SSM Work Plan.
7. Old Business:
  - a. 30-day release clock for MFGR review is still being used. If MFGR notes any issues during review, lead state can put data on hold to stop clock.
  - b. Data export feature implemented to assist with MFGR review. Available to all state users and manufacturers once data is released to the public
8. New Business:
  - a. 2014 submittals (SSM = 33 samples submitted), (RUP = 2 samples submitted)
  - b. VDOT sign shop recognized for their work in 2014.
  - c. Update on Data Mine 3.0 - Future changes and improvements. DOT and Industry need to provide lists of needs. Conference calls to be planned to discuss needs. We are not locked into the current format so new ideas are encouraged.
  - d. RUP, Out-Of-Ordinary event noted - Panel from Arizona lost during shipping. To recommend using Next Day or 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Air for shipping and not Ground Shipping. Out-of-Ordinary Events will be published on SSM/RUP site under RUP Submittal Reference Information.
  - e. Round Robin Testing-10 Panels have been sent out to validate state testing and determine variability. MFGRs will also test the same samples. Current ASTM retro standards (E810) are in need of updates. Each DOT currently tests in-house QC standards. Results are reviewed by each state and the lead state (VDOT). Industry to work with NTPEP to decide on format to present/publish RR results.
  - f. Missouri DOT Light Tunnel equipment upgrade – Upgrade still in progress. May need other states to perform LT testing until their upgrade is complete.
  - g. Updated Work Plans for SSM and RUP are on the NTPEP web site.
9. Industry Presentation on Digital Printing Digital Printing (Brook Jerzyk)
  - a. Faster than silk screening, and provides flexibility of production
  - b. Allows more complex designs, reduced waste, and low dry time

- c. No solvents, so better environmentally
- d. Reduces storage space needs (no screens and supply storage)
- e. Requires an overlay film to protect
- f. Intended to meet standard color specifications

Concerns were raised by DOT personnel about being able to track changes made by sheeting MFGR with regard to digital printing processes used. Currently the SSM TC is recording the digital printing process and the equipment that is used to produce SSM samples.

#### 10. Industry Concerns

- a. Communication Issues – Industry not clear on correct representation. Website not up to date. Communication was not clear to industry reps on scheduled conference calls.  
 To clarify:  
 Matt Hills (Avery Dennison) is the primary representative.  
 Chris Gaudette (ORAFOL Americas) is the secondary.
- b. Data Mine “Digest” was not available to industry.
- c. Industry was not aware of SSM/RUP fee changes.
- d. Round Robin Testing – To present data format design when practice data is supplied.
- e. 30 Day Clock – Would like documentation on the process. Data released prior to 30 day time this past year. Would like NTPEP Executive Committee to promulgate process (including withdraw process). Improved documentation of processes will improve industry confidence.  
 Industry would like the 30 day time limit extended and/or data released in different packets.
- f. Had browser compatibility issues.
- g. Would like to see DM 1.0 charting brought back.
- h. Industry would like to be included in the design of DM 3.0.
- i. Need to have the withdraw process clarified with regard to what data will be accessible to industry and public.

- 11. Jim presented Paul Carlson’s TTI / FHWA research, Rural Roadway Signage: When Brighter Is Not Always Better, This study explores how sign brightness can cause disability glare.  
 This study is available on the TTI website.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

**2014 ANNUAL NTPEP MEETING**  
**Sign Sheeting Materials (SSM)/Roll Up Signs (RUP)**  
**Technical Committee**  
**Monday, May 19, 2014 (12:40pm-2:00pm)**  
**Working Session #2**

**Attendance Sheet**

Name	Employer	Email Address	Phone Number	Member of this Technical Committee?	
				Yes	No
CHRIS GAUDETTE	ORAFOL AMERICAS	CHRIS.GAUDETTE@ORAFOL.COM		IND REP	
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## 2014 ANNUAL NTPEP MEETING

### Sign Sheeting Materials (SSM)/Roll Up Signs (RUP)

## Technical Committee

**Monday, May 19, 2014 (12:40pm-2:00pm)**

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