



Department of Transportation

PO Box 201001

Helena, MT 59620-1001

## Construction Memorandum

To: District Materials Supervisors

From: Matthew R. Strizich, P.E. – Materials Engineer

Date: January 6, 2006

Subject: Retaining and Retesting Density Cores

This Construction Memo is to provide guidance for retaining and retesting plant mix cores used for density acceptance.

Retain all failing cores for a minimum of 14 calendar days from the date all paving is completed on a project or 14 calendar days from the date when one of the following criteria is met.

- 30,000 tons (Metric or English) of plant mix surfacing has been produced since the test results were provided to the contractor and the results have not been questioned.
- Paving on the project has been suspended for the construction season.

Passing cores must be retained for a minimum of 7 calendar days from the date the test results are provided to the contractor.

Requests for retesting of cores must be made through the EPM along with justification for the request. Do not retest without valid justification. The cores should be retained until all issues have been resolved whenever a contractor questions the original test results.

Store all retained cores in a manner and location where the physical properties of the core will not be altered.

Use the original test results for all QA calculations unless retesting indicates the original results were invalid. Failure to retain the cores or cores damaged after the original testing does not invalidate the original test results.

For assistance or questions related to this subject, please contact the Scott Barnes or myself.

This memo supersedes any previous memos on this subject.

MRS

Cc: Mark Wissinger, PE  
Paul Jagoda, PE  
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Area Lab Supervisors  
District Construction Engineers  
District Operations Engineers  
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