



VISION ZERO

zero deaths
zero serious injuries

Montana Department of Transportation

PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Jake Goettle, PE *JM*

Date: September 26, 2019

Subject: R-Value Testing of Finished Subgrade and Special Borrow

This an update to the R-Value Testing of Finished Subgrade memo dated July 6, 2005.

Based on discussions within MDT, it has been decided to rescind the 2005 existing memo and replace with the following clarifications and additions to MDT's existing processes:

- Delete the note in the plans "Surfacing Section Design Based on the top 2 Feet of Subgrade Having an R-Value of ____." Can be construed as a construction requirement.
- The design R-Value should be included in the Scope of Work.
- Standard Specification 106.02.3A, Borrow Source Approval, gives guidance on the process for source approval and R-Value requirement. This specification should remain in effect. Refer also to Special Provision "SPECIAL BORROW SOURCE APPROVAL-SOIL CLASSIFICATION AND/OR R-VALUE TESTING (REVISED 10-10-19).
- A Special Provision can be inserted into the contract to clearly define R-Value requirement that is needed during construction. Special Borrow should be field sampled periodically to verify compliance with MT-601.

copies: Engineering Bureau Chiefs
DAs
DCEs
Lab Supervisors
EPMs
Dwane Kailey, PE
Kevin Christensen, PE