DATE: September 11, 2012

TO: Region Engineers
    Region Associate Construction Engineers
    Region Construction Engineers
    TSC Managers
    TSC Construction Engineers

FROM: Gregory C. Johnson, P.E.
      Chief Operations Officer

Randy R. Van Portfliet, P.E.
      Bureau Director of Field Services

SUBJECT: Bureau of Highway Instructional Memorandum 2012-09
         Authorization to Allow the Switch from HMA Superpave Mix to Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) and to Change the Requirement for AC Binder Sampling when WMA is Being Produced

In May of this year, Frequently Used Special Provision (FUSP) 12SP501(Z), Warm-Mix Asphalt (WMA) Permissive Use, was implemented. This special provision allows contractors to switch to a WMA and use a water-injection foaming device or water foaming additive for Superpave Mix Types E03, LVSP, E1, E3, and E10 in lieu of the standard Superpave Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) specified. The department is in full support of utilizing this special provision on any current HMA projects that specify Superpave Mix Types E03, LVSP, E1, E3, and E10. For projects specifying Superpave Mix Types E30, E50 or GGSP, Construction Field Services (CFS) must be consulted and approve of the change. For all projects that switch to WMA, a contract modification must be processed noting the inclusion of FUSP 12SP501(Z), Warm-Mix Asphalt (WMA) Permissive Use. As the specification notes, “If the Contractor elects to provide a WMA mixture as a substitute for a HMA Superpave mixture as discussed above, this will be done with the understanding that the pay items in the original contract will not be changed and the WMA will be provided under those original pay items at the bid prices submitted.”

FUSP 12SP501(Z), Warm-Mix Asphalt (WMA) Permissive Use requires that the daily asphalt binder sample be taken from a sampling spigot located in the pipeline supplying asphalt binder to the plant in a position between the location in which the water or water foaming additive is added and the point where the asphalt binder enters the mixture. This requirement is being removed from the special provision and the requirement in the Percent Within Limits (PWL) specification will apply, “The daily asphalt binder sample must be taken from a sampling spigot located on the pipeline supplying asphalt binder to the plant, in a position between the asphalt binder pump and the point where the asphalt binder enters the mixture.” This
applies to any project that includes FUSP 12SP501(Z) at the time of bidding or a project that incorporates the FUSP and a contract modification. A revised FUSP 12SP501(Z) has been issued.

A copy of this instructional memorandum, a copy of the revised FUSP 12SP501(Z), and a copy of the CFS approval (where applicable) accompanied by the contract modification shall be placed in the project files documenting the contractual change.

The Federal Highway Administration concurs with this authorization.

If you have any questions, please contact either Kevin Kennedy at 517-322-6043 or Curtis Bleech at 517-322-5769.

FHWA approval: 09-07-12

BOFS:CJB:mnn

Index: Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA)

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