Updates to Level 1A Certification Program

In the past year the Hot Mix Asphalt Center has been re-evaluating the Certification/Training Programs that are offered. With increased funding and a growing demand for certified technicians, an opportunity for change presented itself. In partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Hot Mix Asphalt Center (HMAC) began re-evaluating the Certification/Training programs.

One of the changes is that the HMAC will be moving to a Certification centered philosophy. That is eventual all Certifications will be a 1 or 2-day class that relies on the individual seeking certification to come prepared and trained to pass both an individual performance evaluation (hands on examination) and a written examination. Moving to this format will allow greater availability to schedule technicians and will reduce time away from the job.

Level 1A is the first Certification that will operate under this new format.

As of August 2016, the HMAC no longer offers the weeklong training/certification class. All individuals seeking certification will attend a one-day certification class. Technicians will have to successfully complete an individual performance evaluation (hands on examination) and pass the written examination.

The individual performance evaluation requires actual demonstration of the required TxDOT Test Procedures. The evaluation is based on the individual's ability to correctly perform (or describe, where allowed) the test procedure.

The two-hour written examination is open-booked and consists of 100 multiple-choice questions. To pass the written examination the individual must score an 80 or above.

Best Practices

Before sending an individual to a certification class, we recommend the following training best practices:

- Read and Understand the Test Procedures.
- Watch Test Procedure Videos found on the HMAC website (note that the online pretests are no longer required).
- Shadow a Certified Technician for a minimum of 10 days. It is suggested that the Certified Technician should be a good communicator who sees training as part of their responsibility.
- Run each test procedure at least 20 times.

Remember that everyone learns at a different pace, so take that into consideration before sending someone to a certification class.

To find a list of all the test procedures covered in the new format visit us at www.txhmac.org.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at cschwarz@texasasphalt.org