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September 24, 2020

Re-Start of the Certification and Proficiency Programs

Summary

The Materials and Tests Division (MTD) is not extending certifications beginning October 2, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 situation, if a certification expired between March 16, 2020 to October 1, 2020, the certification was extended through January 2, 2021. All certifications granted this extension will expire after January 2, 2021.

In addition, due to not extending the certification program, certifications that expire beginning on October 2, 2020 will expire on the expiration date. A grace period will be given to the Hot Mix Asphalt Center (HMAC) certifications expiring between October 2, 2020 to January 1, 2021 if the technician has registered for the certification class prior to the certification expiring and has registered for the class prior to January 1, 2021. The grace period will be granted on a case by case basis. Please contact Thomas Smith at Thomas.Smith2@txdot.gov or by phone at (512)506-5802 if you have any questions.

The certification program is expected to return to the original schedule prior to the pandemic by January 3, 2021. Please review the information below pertaining to each certification and proficiency program for additional information.

HMAC Level 1A, 1B, and AGG101

Virtual training and certification classes have been developed and are available for Level 1A, 1B, and AGG101. On-site training and certification classes are also available for industry. TxDOT employees will follow the travel, meeting, and training requirements found in the TxDOT Playbook and Focus on Cost Savings. Please also note the HMAC will open additional certification classes on an as needed basis. To schedule and register for the class, visit the HMAC website at <https://www.txhmac.org/> or call the HMAC at (512)312-2099.

HMAC Level 2

Only on-site certification classes are available at this time. TxDOT employees will follow the travel, meeting, and training requirements found in the TxDOT Playbook and Focus on Cost Savings. Please note the HMAC will develop a virtual certification for Level 2 depending on the need from your responses. Visit the HMAC website at <https://www.txhmac.org/> or call the HMAC at (512)312-2099.

HMAC SB101, SB102, SB103, SB201, and SB202

Virtual certification classes have been developed and are available for SB101, SB102, SB103, SB201, and SB202. Virtual training classes are available for SB102. On-site training and certifications are also available for industry. TxDOT employees will follow the travel, meeting, and training requirements found in the TxDOT Playbook and Focus on Cost Savings. Please note the HMAC will open additional certification classes on an as needed basis. To schedule and register, visit the HMAC website at <https://www.txhmac.org/> or call the HMAC at (512)312-2099.

Level 1A Hot-Mix Proficiency Program

The Level 1A Hot-Mix Proficiency Program is on schedule and samples will be sent to all Level 1A technicians requiring the proficiency to maintain their certification by January 15, 2021.

Hamburg Proficiency Program

The Hamburg Proficiency Program is on schedule and samples will be sent by the end of March.

Soils and Base Proficiency Program

The Soils and Base Proficiency Program is on schedule and the samples have been shipped.

ACI Certifications

ACI certifications are only required for District Lab personnel that administer TxDOT concrete certifications. Currently each District Lab meets this requirement. Until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, TxDOT's ACI Sponsoring Group will suspend ACI certification activities held at Cedar Park. There are a number of technicians who participated in ACI certification sessions last year that are in a "in-progress" status. MTD will be working with Districts to provide an opportunity for technicians to retake the written portion of the certification prior to their one year testing limit expiration.

Concrete Strength Proficiency Program

Due to the COVID-19 restriction, the concrete strength proficiency program was interrupted after the first two rounds of samples. The Rigid Pavements and Concrete Materials Section will begin production of concrete strength proficiency samples this month and these samples will start to be sent out early October. For certifications that will expire due to lack of proficiency sample after October 1, 2020, there will be a grace period of January 31, 2021, to allowed time for MTD to receive and process proficiency results. If you have further questions, please contact Andy Naranjo at Andy.Naranjo@txdot.gov or by phone at (512)506-5858.

TxDOT Internal Quality Assurance Certification Program

The TxDOT issued certifications will expire on the date listed in SiteManager if an extension was not granted. All certifications receiving the extension will expire after January 2, 2021. Certification needs should be addressed virtually on a case by case basis. If you have further questions regarding the TxDOT issued certifications, please contact Thomas Smith at Thomas.Smith2@txdot.gov or by phone at (512)506-5802.

Sincerely,

Ryan C. Barborak, P.E.
Deputy Division Director
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