



Florida Department of Transportation

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MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 06-03
MEMORANDUM NO. 28-03

TO: DISTRICT MATERIALS ENGINEERS
DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: Thomas O. Malerk, P.E., State Materials Engineer
Ananth Prasad, P.E., State Construction Engineer

SUBJECT: CONTRACTOR QUALITY CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNSOAKED LBR TEST

Article 160-2 of the Standard Specifications allows the use of the unsoaked LBR test for the acceptance of stabilized subgrade requiring an LBR of 40. The unsoaked LBR test is performed just like the soaked LBR test, but the 48 hour soaking period for the compacted samples is deleted. This will reduce the test turn around times from (84 to 108) hours to (36 to 60) hours.

Passing material requires an unsoaked LBR value of 43 with no undertolerance. A failing unsoaked LBR value requires running the standard LBR test. Since some soils give results that are too variable, the District Materials Engineer must approve the unsoaked LBR test for use.

When the contractor wants to use the unsoaked LBR test a request is made through the Project Engineer to the District Materials Engineer (DME). Upon approval by the DME to consider use of the unsoaked LBR test, the contractor will sample and test three samples from the Initial Production Lot using both the soaked and unsoaked test. Verification will sample and test one sample using both the soaked and unsoaked test. If the results of all tests demonstrate that the material can uniformly achieve an unsoaked LBR value of 43 with the soaked LBR of 35 or more, the unsoaked LBR test will be approved for the project. If the material does not meet an unsoaked LBR of 43, the standard LBR test will be required. Approval of the unsoaked LBR test will only apply for materials represented by the contractor's three samples, and approval will only continue if subsequent unsoaked LBR test results remain above 43.

On Projects that do not have the unsoaked LBR specification, a change order will be required to perform the unsoaked LBR. After the contractor has demonstrated by the three tests that the material is suitable, and after the change order is approved, the unsoaked LBR can be used for acceptance.

In order to perform the comparison testing, four bags of material are needed for each of the three LBR tests. The C-22 cards should be marked "soaked/unsoaked LBR" for submittal to the lab.

MP/js