

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PORTLAND LIMESTONE CEMENT SAMPLES FOR AUTHORIZED MATERIALS LIST

Introduction

As you may know, Caltrans is changing its specifications to allow Portland Limestone Cement (PLC) to be used on projects. We are expecting the new spec to “go live” in October, but, in the meantime, we can all be preparing for that. The Concrete Materials Testing Branch will soon accept samples for testing and addition to the AML. Here is some useful information regarding the testing procedure and timeline. The procedure for sample submissions will be like what we have in place for other cements. However, feel free to reach out to Ben Lenz via e-mail sent to <ben.lenz@dot.ca.gov> should you need assistance with sample submissions.

How will PLCs be approved?

PLCs will be approved by the same program as other cementitious materials. The program document can be found on this page <<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/engineering-services/authorized-materials-lists>> at the link labeled “Authorization Requirements for Cementitious Materials for use in Concrete (PDF).”

What do I need to provide to Caltrans?

The full details can be found in the program document, but, in short, you will need to provide:

- A completed 9502 form (found near the top of the page at the link above)
- A completed Intent to Supply Form
- An SDS for the material
- A sample of at least 20 lbs. of material
- 6 monthly sets of test data

What if I don't have 6 months of data yet?

Not a problem. We can give your material a CONDITIONAL APPROVAL with a smaller set of data. When the full 6 months of data is received, we will remove the CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.

When can I begin sending in materials for approval?

Immediately. The sooner you get them in, the sooner we can process them.

How long will it take for materials to be approved?

It will take 2-3 months from the time we receive samples to complete testing. So, samples need to get here in August to be fully tested and ready to go on the list when the spec comes out in October.

Will I see my material listed on the AML?

Not until the “go-live” date for the spec in October. Until then, we will notify you by email that your material has completed testing and approved. As soon as the new spec is published, we will update the list with all the PLCs that have been approved.

Where can I find the standard specification requirements for PLC?

The October 2021 RSS will include the required information. These requirements are included in section 90 of the revised standard specifications. Here is a summary of requirements:

Blended cement, including portland limestone cement, Type IL must comply with AASHTO M 240, except:

- 1. Maximum limits on pozzolan content do not apply*
- 2. Sulfate resistance must be moderate (MS) or high (HS)*
- 3. Alkali content in the cement portion of blended cements must not exceed 0.60 percent by mass of alkalis as Na₂O + 0.658 K₂O when determined under AASHTO T 105.*