

Memorandum

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a California Way of Life.*

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction
DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEF, Structure Construction
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
RESIDENT ENGINEERS

Date: September 30, 2026

File: Division of Construction
CPD 26-5



From: RAMON HOPKINS, Chief
Division of Construction

Subject: **ACCEPTANCE METHOD FOR LOW STRENGTH CONCRETE PAVEMENT**

This Construction Procedure Directive (CPD) provides information to California Department of Transportation resident engineers about upcoming revisions to Section 40, "Concrete Pavement," of the *Standard Specifications*. Revisions to this section will be implemented on October 19, 2026, in the 2026 *Standard Specifications*.

The revision requires concrete pavement acceptance be based on a fixed compressive strength of 4,500 psi at 56 days. There is also a new method that allows verifying and accepting low strength concrete pavement with cores. The requirements and details of this new method are described in Section 40-1.01D(8)(c)(v), "Determining Compressive Strength from Pavement Cores," which will be implemented in the 2026 *Standard Specifications*.

For projects advertised before October 19, 2026, or projects that do not include the revised specifications, the contractor may request use of these specifications for ongoing projects by submitting a change order request to the resident engineer. Since projects advertised before the implementation of the 2026 *Standard Specifications* will not have strength requirements at 56 days, contractors may request use of this specification if the strength at 42 days does not meet acceptance. The change order must be approved before cores are taken from the concrete pavement. The location of coring also needs to be approved by the resident engineer.

Attached to this CPD are a sample change order memorandum and a sample change order. The sample change order includes the applicable specification language, which has been modified to accept low strength concrete pavement that does not meet strength requirements at 42 days. Depending on the test results, the resident engineer will modify the estimated cost of the sample change order to be either no cost or a credit to the State of California.

DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction et al.

Month XX, 2026

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This CPD serves as delegation of authority from the Division of Construction for change order approval, except when language in the sample change order or sample change order memorandum provided with this CPD are altered.

For questions or comments regarding this CPD, please contact Deborah Yost, Division of Construction, at Deborah.Yost@dot.ca.gov or (916) 764-8011.

Attachments:

1. Sample Form DOT CEM-4903, "Change Order Memorandum" Accepting Low Strength Concrete Pavement
2. Sample Form DOT CEM-4900, "Change Order" Accepting Low Strength Concrete Pavement