

**MATERIALS DIVISION**  
  
 Virginia Department of Transportation  
**MEMORANDUM**

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT:</b> Sampling Central - Mixed Aggregates	<b>NUMBER:</b> MD 311-09
<b>SPECIFIC SUBJECT:</b> Materials Manual of Instructions: Section 311.05 - Sampling Central - Mixed Aggregates	<b>DATE:</b> Jan.21, 2009
<b>DIRECTED TO:</b> District Materials Engineers, Concrete Program Engineer and Assistant State Materials Engineers	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>  Charles A. Babish, PE <i>Signature on original copy of memorandum</i>

*This Memorandum notifies the users of the Materials Division Manual of Instructions that Chapter III, Geotechnical Engineering, Section 311.05, paragraph 3 has been revised. This updated document replaces the March 2008 version of Chapter III, Section 311.05 paragraph 3.*

*The purpose of the change is to address safety concerns in sampling Central-Mixed Aggregate from quadrants established in a truck. The four methods allowed will let an inspector sample from scaffolding from the center of a truck or safely on the ground from mini stockpiles*

**Replace Section 311.05(a) paragraph 3 with the following:**

A statistically acceptable method of randomization is to be used to determine the time and location for taking the stratified random sample. See the Central-Mixed Aggregate Plant Certification Study Guide for an approved randomization method. Testing and acceptance will be in accordance with the Road and Bridge Specifications Section 208. The frequency of sampling shall be at a rate of 4 samples per 2000 ton (2000 metric ton) lot. 4000 ton (4000 metric ton) lot may be used when the normal production exceeds 2000 tons (2000 metric tons) per day. ~~The sample shall be obtained from the approximate center of randomly selected quadrants of truckloads of material.~~ Samples shall be taken after the material has been mixed according to Section 208.05 of the Road

and Bridge Specifications to satisfy the blending and moisture requirements (Optimum moisture,  $\pm 2$  percentage point).

The representative sample, secured from the randomly selected ton of material that is being shipped to the project site and weighing 30 to 40 pounds, *be obtained by one of the following methods: (1) the sample shall be obtained from the approximate center of the loaded truck; (2) a loaded truck, shall dump at a convenient location within the plant facility to create a representative mini-stockpile. The top of the truck dumped load shall be struck with the bucket of a front-end loader to create a flat spot on top of the pile from which the representative sample shall be obtained (3) a mini-stockpile created by material extracted from the post pugmill shipping stockpile. When the truck containing the load that is to be sampled is in the process of being loaded, a randomly selected front - end loader bucket of aggregate being taken from the post pugmill shipping stockpile shall be dumped at a convenient location within the plant facility to create the mini-stockpile. The top of the mini-stockpile shall be struck with the bucket of the front-end loader to create a flat spot from which the representative sample shall be obtained.*

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- Chief Engineer
- Scheduling and Contract Division Administrator
- Resident Administrators
- Area Construction Engineers
- District Materials Engineers
- American Concrete Paving Association NE Chapter, Southern Region
- Virginia Dept. of Minority Business Enterprise
- Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
- Federal Highway Administration
- Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance
- Precast Concrete Association of Virginia
- Old Dominion Highway Contractors Association
- Virginia Asphalt Association