



Materials sampling and testing methods and documentation procedures prescribed in chapter 8 of the CMM are mobilized into the contract by [standard spec 106.3.4.1](#) and [standard spec 106.3.4.3.1](#).

8-20.1 General

The Materials Independent Assurance Sampling and Testing Program (IAP) is a major element of WisDOT's Materials Quality Control Program. It is intended to ensure that test data derived from project acceptance testing is reliable by providing an independent check of test results and equipment. The program includes observations of project sampling and testing, split sample testing, equipment checking, and documentation.

The Independent Assurance Sampling and Testing Program is mandated by the FHWA. The purpose is to confirm the reliability of the test results obtained in the acceptance sampling and testing program. This is accomplished by observing sampling and testing procedures, as well as obtaining split portions of acceptance samples. Split samples are tested using equipment and operators different from those used for acceptance testing. The test results are then compared to the acceptance test results. If these test results do not compare favorably, follow-up actions are taken to discover and correct the deficiencies.

The Independent Assurance Program personnel will evaluate the sampling and testing personnel and equipment of both the contractor and the department. The program covers sampling procedures, testing procedures, and testing equipment. The testing equipment will be evaluated by calibration checks, split samples, or proficiency samples. Testing personnel will be evaluated by observation, review of the control charts and documentation, and split samples or proficiency samples.

An independent assurance program is required of the states by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for federal aid projects. The states develop their own program content using FHWA prescribed guidelines. FHWA concurrence with the IAP is necessary before implementation by the state. It is department policy to apply the program to all state funded projects except those specifically exempted.

Management of this program at the region level is the responsibility of the Independent Assurance Engineering specialist. In this function, the specialist is considered a representative of the Central Laboratory responsible to the Bureau of Technical Services, Materials Management program engineer.

It is important that all IAP activities are completely independent of project management activities, though close cooperation between the two is essential. It is also particularly important that project personnel appreciate the importance of the IAP and cooperate fully to accomplish its intended purpose.

Specific detailed instruction and guides relative to the samples and tests undertaken in this program are not described here, since the instructions and guides are of primary concern to the Independent Assurance engineering specialist and have little value to project personnel. The region Independent Assurance specialist may be contacted to obtain copies of the WisDOT IAP.