Test Procedure for

SAMPLING PAINT CHIPS FOR LEAD TESTING

TxDOT Designation: Tex-819-B

Effective Date: April 2012

1. SCOPE

1.1 This method describes the procedure for sampling paint for lead testing on highway structures and includes locations where lead-containing paint is likely to be found. It does not describe safety precautions.

1.2 The values given in parentheses (if provided) are not standard and may not be exact mathematical conversions. Use each system of units separately. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the standard.

2. APPARATUS

2.1 Ladder, bucket truck, snooper truck, or traffic control, as needed to sample safely.

2.2 Paint removal tools, knife, paint scraper, etc.

2.3 Plastic zip-top bags.

2.4 Permanent marker.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 While any paint on steel may contain lead, look for an orange-red “red lead” primer or a green “low lead” primer applied directly to the steel, often with an aluminum flake (shiny metallic color) topcoat. Be certain to sample this type of paint if found.

3.2 Locations to sample include:

- Steel beams/girders
- Steel bearings
- Painted rail (steel or wood)
- Hard-to-clean areas where old paint might have been missed on an earlier repaint, e.g., inside a box beam or behind a bearing
- Any “different” areas, e.g., both the original girders and the newer girders on a bridge that was previously expanded.
3.3 Collect samples from at least three different areas of the bridge or structure. Each area should represent a different structural element.

**Example**—Sample from one bearing, one floor beam under the center of the deck, and inside a section of C-channel guardrail.

3.4 Scrape, cut, peel, or otherwise transfer at least 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of paint chips from each sample area on the structure to a separate zip-top bag.

3.5 Try to collect all layers of paint at the sample location. Pay particular attention to collecting the primer (lowest layer).

3.6 Try not to include rust, dirt, rocks, concrete, plants, or anything that is not paint. Inclusion of small amounts of rust is usually unavoidable, but allow as little as possible.

3.7 Seal each bag and label with the location of the structure and the sampled location.

**Example**—FM615 @ Sandy Creek (Piano Bridge) – Dubina, TX, north bottom girder, near west abutment

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### 4. FINALIZING

4.1 Complete [Form 202](#) with available data, including name and contact information. Bridges should also include a National Bridge Inventory Number. Check “Chemical” at the top of the form. Test Method is ASTM E 1613 or “total lead testing.” Laboratory is “Chemical.”

**Note 1**—Because Form 202 is generic for all sample types, not all information is available. For example, there will be no DHT number, as only warehouse samples have DHT numbers.

4.2 Ship samples and Form 202 to Texas Department of Transportation, CST/M&P (CP51), 9500 North Lake Creek Parkway, Austin, TX 78717.

**Note 2**—Do not ship via US Postal Service to this address. Interoffice mail or commercial shippers (UPS, FedEx, etc.) are good choices.