




**ATTENTION: TP&D, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ENGINEERS**

SPECIAL PROVISION AND/OR SPECIFICATION CHANGE MEMORANDUM 22-22

MEMO

Date: August 31, 2022

To: District Engineers

From: Ryan C. Barborak, P.E. 
Director, Materials and Tests Division

Subject: Statewide Special Provision SP 434-004 (14), "Bridge Bearings;" Departmental Material Specification (DMS) 7365, "Qualification Procedure for Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Pad Manufacturers;" Tex-601-J, "Adhesion and Chlorinated Compound Testing of Elastomeric Bridge Bearings;" and Tex-603-J, "Compression Load Testing of Laminated Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Pads."

The above-referenced Special Provision has been approved for statewide use and is required for all projects using Item 434, "Bridge Bearings," beginning with the December 2022 letting. However, use of this Special Provision prior to the December 2022 letting is at the District's option.

This Special Provision adds the requirement for manufacturers of elastomeric bridge bearing pads to be approved in accordance with DMS-7365, "Qualification Procedure for Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Pad Manufacturers." This does not apply to manufacturers of bridge bearings where the elastomeric bearing pad is a component of the completed bearing assembly. The Special Provision also requires manufacturers of laminated elastomeric bearings with a top steel plate or special components to comply with AASHTO's National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP) Committee Work Plan for Evaluation of Plain and Laminated Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Manufacturers.

The above-referenced Departmental Materials Specification (DMS) has been approved for statewide use, effective August 2022.

DMS-7365, "Qualification Procedure for Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Pad Manufacturers," (Spec Committee No. DMS-7365-202111-1) places sole responsibility for plant quality control and acceptance of elastomeric bridge bearing pads on the manufacturers. Manufacturers are also required to comply with AASHTO'S NTPEP Committee Work Plan for Evaluation of Plain and Laminated Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Manufacturers and are required to test and certify finished bearings. MTD will maintain the Material Producer List, "Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Pad Manufacturers."

The above-referenced test procedures have been approved for statewide use, effective August 2022.

Tex-601-J, “Adhesion and Chlorinated Compound Testing of Elastomeric Bridge Bearings,” (Spec Committee No. Tex-601-J-202111-3) adopts AASHTO’s M251 Appendix X2 bond strength test.

Tex-603-J, “Compression Load Testing of Laminated Elastomeric Bridge Bearing Pads,” (Spec Committee No. Tex-603-J-202111-3) specifies the compression load testing requirements for the laminated elastomeric bridge bearing pads.

Please contact Teresa Michalk, P.E., at (512) 506–5926 with any questions.

CC: TxDOT Specification Committee
Federal Highway Administration
The Associated General Contractors of Texas