

**DATE:** December 9, 2008

**SUBJECT:** New Pavement Roughness Testing Program

**TO:** All District Executives

**FROM:** Richard H. Hogg, P.E.  
Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration



This policy redefines the protocols for “new pavement” testing which were originally defined in 1999, and has no impact on District resources, but will result in time and cost savings for the Bureau of Maintenance and Operations (BOMO). BOMO administers the annual network level pavement roughness testing program and tests newly resurfaced or reconstructed pavements to assure that year-end data reflects the improvements made during the year. The Districts are responsible for the prompt entry of Pavement History data in the Roadway Management System (RMS) for all maintenance and construction projects. This data is the source of information that prompts the above-mentioned testing. Previously, BOMO was committed to performing the IRI testing on the “new pavements” within six (6) weeks of data entry. This policy resulted in one hundred and fourteen (114) separate trips to the eleven (11) Districts in FY 07-08 for new pavement IRI testing.

Effective January 1, 2009, BOMO will perform the new pavement IRI testing within three (3) months of Pavement History updates. This criterion will enable required testing in the same District to be combined over a longer period of time, so fewer trips will be necessary to accomplish the same amount of testing. Additionally, all Pavement History updates completed by October 15 of each year will be tested before the end of the year; this will cover the majority of the year’s surface improvements if prompt entry of new Pavement History data is performed. Pavement History updates should still be made within the current time standards: four (4) weeks of reopening to traffic for Department force projects, and within six (6) weeks for contractor projects.

This proposed change will not impact the amount of new pavement IRI data collected each year, but will allow BOMO to plan testing trips more efficiently throughout the year. Since year-end data is used for IRI reporting and assessment, roughness testing performed later in the year will have no impact on results or trends.

If there are any questions concerning this policy, please contact Daryl St. Clair, P.E., Acting Director, Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, at (717)787-6899 or via email at [dstclair@state.pa.us](mailto:dstclair@state.pa.us).

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