



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONSTRUCTION BUREAU
1409 COLISEUM BOULEVARD
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36110
PHONE (334) 242-6208



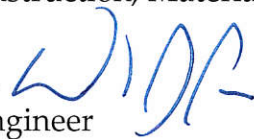
John R. Cooper
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

June 25, 2018

Construction Information Memorandum No. 6 - 2018

TO: Region Engineers

ATTN: Area Operations, Construction, Materials, and Local Transportation Engineers

FROM: Winston J. Powe, P.E. 
State Construction Engineer

RE: Unannounced Independent Weight Checks and Scale Inspections
Revisions to Subarticle 109.01(h)

In order to periodically check scale accuracy, the current language of Subarticle 109.01(h) requires the Engineer to conduct an unannounced independent weight check (IWC) for every three months of operation. This long-standing practice is now being ended with Special Provision No. 18-0314 (copy attached).

There are two reasons for making this change: First, a recent survey of the Areas found that out-of-tolerance scales have been a very rare occurrence in recent years. Second, after discussing our IWC policy with the Department of Agriculture & Industries (A&I) staff members who are responsible for scale operations and accuracy, we were convinced that their use of registered service agents for scale testing and inspection was sufficient at guarding against out-of-tolerance scales; therefore, our practice of IWCs is deemed unnecessary.

Numerous changes have been made to Subarticle 109.01(h), namely the following:

- All references to scale tolerances, sensitivity, and recording capability have been omitted since these parameters are found within the guidelines followed by the registered service agents.
- The required interval for scale testing and inspection is now six months for all scales. (all scales were previously four months except for Portland cement scales at six months).

- Reference is made to the policy of uploading scale inspection reports to A&I's website. Copies of the inspection reports must still be furnished to the Area Operations Engineer.
- The language requiring IWCs has been omitted entirely, along with other obsolete language.

The specifications still address the Engineer's rejection of scales that are out of compliance. A&I has informed us that scales found by the service agent to be out of tolerance or unreliable are typically repaired by the service agent. If repairs are not possible or will be delayed, A&I is notified, and the scales are "red tagged" and must be repaired within ten business days. Otherwise, A&I takes possession of the scales. While the scales are out of commission, the tag and related paper work is required to be visible in the scale house, and the owner is prohibited from operating the scales.

As part of this change, CIMs 11-88 and 2-94 are now considered inactive. Please note that CIM 2-94 included a reference to CIM 7-86, which was already noted as inactive

This Special Provision will be effective beginning with the June 2018 letting. Additionally, since the testing and inspections of scales outlined above and in the special provision are governed by state law that is already in effect, it is acceptable to discontinue IWCs on all active projects.

WJP/JLB/jlb

Attachments (SP 18-0314)

pc: Mr. George Conner, PE	Mr. Scott George, PE	Ms. Kelly Brendle
Mr. Stacy Boshell, A&I	FHWA	ARBA
AAPA	ALBCA	ACIA
ACEA	CIM File	

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DATE: April 18, 2018

Special Provision No. 18-0314

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Weight {Mass} Measurements.

Alabama Standard Specifications, 2018 Edition, SECTION 109 shall be modified as follows:

SECTION 109 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

109.01 Measurement of Quantities.

(h) Weight {Mass} Measurements.

1. General.

The term "ton" shall mean the short ton {metric ton} consisting of 2,000 pounds avoirdupois {1000 kg}.

Scales furnished by the Contractor shall meet all requirements currently adopted by Alabama Department of Agriculture pertaining to weighing or measuring devices.

Scales shall be tested and inspected by a service agent currently registered with the Alabama Department of Agriculture. The time between inspections shall not exceed six months. In addition, any time a plant is moved or substantially modified, the scales shall be inspected. The inspection report shall be uploaded to the Alabama Department of Agriculture's reporting website and a copy sent to the Area in which the scale is located. It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure weighing devices are maintained in proper working condition during use. Devices that are found to be out of compliance will not be used until such time corrections are made to comply with regulations and they are recertified. The Engineer will reject them for use on the project until they are recertified. Weights {Masses} above the acceptable capacity of a set of scales will not be acceptable.

2. Weight {Mass} Measure for Pay Purposes.

If material is shipped by rail, the car weight {mass} may be accepted provided that only the actual weight {mass} of material is paid for and is certified by a car weight {mass} obtained from a certified scale after the unloading. However, car weights will not be accepted for steel reinforcement, structural steel or materials that are to pass through a mixing plant.

Trucks used to haul material being paid by weight shall be measured empty daily, with the driver in the truck, to establish a daily tare weight. Each truck shall also bear a plain legible identification number.

Commercial materials, except reinforcing steel and structural steel, which are measured by weight {mass} for pay purposes shall be measured by a qualified "Weighmaster*" using acceptable weight tickets. As a minimum, the weight ticket shall contain the following:

- 1) Name of the Contractor and material producer.
- 2) Project Number and County.
- 3) Truck number.
- 4) Contract item number and item name.
- 5) Date and time of loading.
- 6) Gross, tare, and net weights.
- 7) Weighmaster's signature. (May be electronically generated).

- 8) Any additional information as required of the Contractor or material producer for participation as a Qualified Source as given in the Department's "Materials, Sources and Devices with Special Acceptance Requirements" manual unless furnished on a separate applicable BMT Certificate of Compliance.

For measurement systems capable of measuring net weight directly from the measuring hopper, the gross and tare weights will not be required. In lieu of bulk weight, the Department will accept weights of materials normally sold in bagged form (i.e. fertilizers, cement, etc.).

It shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that a weight {mass} ticket is delivered to the project with each load. Weight tickets will not be accepted after the truck has left the project.

*Weighmasters must be qualified in accordance with the provisions of Section 8, Chapter 16, of the Code of Alabama, 1975, or in case of material purchased out of State complying with the appropriate State laws, rules and regulations for Weighmasters of the State involved. A copy of the "Weighmaster's Certificate" shall be furnished the Engineer and additionally a copy shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the vicinity of the measuring operations.

3. Weight {Mass} Measurement for Proportioning, etc. of Materials.

Scales used for proportioning mixtures within mixing plants shall comply with the following unless otherwise noted:

a. Asphalt Mixing Plants.

Scales shall meet current compliance regulations according to Alabama Department of Agriculture requirements and be visible to the plant inspector on the mixing platform.

b. Concrete Mixing Plants or Units.

Scales shall meet current compliance regulations according to Alabama Department of Agriculture requirements. Separate scales shall be provided for bulk cement and for bulk fly ash, as provided in Article 815.11.

c. Base Course Mixing Plants.

Measuring equipment shall meet the requirements of Sub item b. above with separate bins for each size aggregate and separate bins and scales for additives (calcium chloride, cement, etc.).