



WAQTC 2018 Strategic Plan

Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction

2018 Strategic Plan



The Western Alliance for Quality Transportation Construction (WAQTC) is a voluntary organization, whose membership recognizes the advantages of a unified effort leading to significant accomplishments.

The WAQTC is focused in three main areas:

1. Standardization of test methods (WAQTC, AASHTO, ASTM)
2. Certification of sampler / testers through the Transportation Technician Qualification Program (TTQP)
3. Working together on national programs of interest including research, training, and technology deployment

MISSION STATEMENT:

Provide leadership in the pursuit of continuously improving quality in transportation construction.

GOALS

To accomplish this mission, the WAQTC has established the following goals:

- **Promote an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and communication among government agencies and the private sector**
- **Respond in a unified and consistent manner to identified quality improvement needs and new technologies that impact the products we provide**
- **Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards**
- **Provide highly skilled, knowledgeable materials sampling and testing technicians**
- **Provide reciprocity for qualified testing technicians among accredited agencies**

PLAN

To achieve the goals, the WAQTC has established this strategic plan to guide our efforts and prioritize the expenditure of funding in the coming years. The Executive Board, as defined in the WAQTC By-Laws, will oversee the execution of this plan through its Qualification Advisory Committee (QAC). The Board will review and update this plan annually and prioritize work for the coming year.

Promote an atmosphere of trust, cooperation, and communication among government agencies and the private sector

On-going Activities

- **Update and maintain the WAQTC website**

Long term Goals

- **Development of Presentation Materials**
Presentations on WAQTC: the benefits of membership, technology transfer opportunities, activity reports, training modules, etc.

Respond in a unified and consistent manner to identified quality improvement needs and new technologies that impact the products we provide

On-going Activities

- **Evaluate training materials yearly for content**
Part of the ongoing QAC effort.

Short term Goal

- **Pursue a peer exchange to examine online training options.**

Long term Goal

- **Develop online training and identify means to make available as a field reference.**

Provide a forum to promote uniform test standards

On-going Activities

- **Identify proposed modifications or new AASHTO test methods through the QAC.**
The Executive Board will assign a champion for each proposed new or modified procedure who will track progress of WAQTC proposed changes through the AASHTO process.

The WAQTC has become a powerful influence with the AASHTO Committee on Materials and Pavements (COMP) and the benefits/costs of this effort and the working committee (QAC) are included in the on-going efforts.

- **Maintain a Field Operating Procedure (FOP) library**
Standardized FOPs for agencies to use creates consistency in test methods. Agencies do not need to repeat the effort and expense of developing FOPs or state test methods.

Short term Goals

- **Work to clarify and address copyright concerns on produced standards and reproduced training materials.**

Long term Goals

- **Evaluate the need for WAQTC training on equipment calibration, standardization and checks process**

Provide highly skilled, knowledgeable materials sampling and testing technicians

On-going Activities

- **QAC Sub-Committee to Review Exam Question Selection**
The QAC will develop objectives for the written exam and assign a subcommittee to review question selection.
- **Develop an Exam question 'pool' for each discipline**
- **Develop 3-5 New Questions per Year, per Module**
The QAC will develop new questions for each module each year to keep written exams fresh and current.
- **Maintain existing WAQTC Instructional Materials**
Keep Instructional Materials updated to current references and formatting.

Short term Goals

- **Develop an Asphalt Mixtures Laboratory Prepared Specimens standard practice.**

Long term Goals

- **Develop training materials for Self-Consolidating Concrete**
- **Develop Electronic Question Database – Randomly Generate Questions**
Develop enough exam questions that a database can create a randomly generated 'unique' exam for each participant.
- **Evaluate feasibility and ramifications of allowing the use of the training materials and qualification process by other entities.**
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Provide reciprocity for certified testing technicians among accredited Agencies

On-going activities

- **Communicate with non-member agencies on the benefits of membership.**

Short term Goals

- **Develop Roles and Responsibilities guide for QAC and Board members**
Develop a section for the Operations Manual establishing roles and responsibilities for members of the QAC and Board, including expectations for appointed members and describing the purpose of the primary meetings. This section will provide background, guidance, and definitions of roles and responsibilities of committees' members.

Long term Goals

- **Reciprocity Audits of Member States**
Develop a manual and program for auditing the WAQTC member organizations to ensure qualification criteria are being adhered to within the program.
- **Increase reciprocity to states outside of membership**
- **Operations Manual for WAQTC**

2018 Planned Work

Priorities of the Executive Board:

- Continue work on 'on-going' activities
- Evaluate existing training materials for needed improvements / updates
- Pursue a peer exchange to examine online training options.
- Work to clarify and address copyright concerns on produced standards and reproduced training materials.
- Develop an Asphalt Mixtures Laboratory Prepared Specimens standard practice.

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Appendix: 2017 Completed Items

- **WAQTC Performance Examiner Orientation**
Guidelines the Performance Examiner review and signs at the beginning of the performance exam process; included in the Operation's Manual.
- **Reciprocity questionnaire**
Sent to member states for response at least every three years according to the TTQP Operational Agreement; included in the Operations Manual.
- **AASHTO Revision Proposal Process**
Process for a member agency seeking WAQTC support for AASHTO Standards proposals; included in Operation's Manual.

AASHTO revisions:

- **T 23; Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field**
Added section for Self-Consolidating Concrete, other revisions for consistency.
- **T 121; Density (Unit Weight), Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Freshly Mixed Concrete**
Corrected cross referencing, definitions, and errors. Added tapping 'around the perimeter' instead of sides after rodding.
- **T 152; Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Pressure Method**
Removed listed Standards from 'Referenced Documents' that are not referenced in the document. Use of the term 'measuring bowl' throughout for consistency. 'Tap around the perimeter of the measuring bowl.'
- **T 176; Plastic Fines in Graded Aggregates and Soils by Use of the Sand Equivalent Test**
Added process for mixing working solution in section 4.9.

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Appendix: 2016 Completed Items

- **Develop Roles and Responsibilities guide for QAC and Executive Board members**
Roles and responsibilities guidelines are approved and will be included in the Operations Manual.

AASHTO revisions:

- **R 75; Developing a Family of Curves**
This new Standard Practice addresses developing a family of curves
- **T 121; Density (Unit Weight), Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Concrete**
Revised to include tapping the sides after consolidating each layer with a vibrator and added sections to address use of the method on Self-Consolidating Concrete.
- **T 152; Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Pressure Method**
Revised to include tapping the sides after consolidating each layer with a vibrator and added sections to address use of the method on Self-Consolidating Concrete.
- **T 166; Bulk Specific Gravity (G_{mb}) of Compacted Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Using Saturated Surface-Dry Specimens**
Reworded the definition of bulk specific gravity to be specific to the test method.
- **T 308; Determining the Asphalt Binder Content of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) by the Ignition Method**
Added a temperature range for the ignition furnace in apparatus.
- **T 272; Family of Curves - One-Point Method**
Redeveloped and renamed One-Point Method for Determining Maximum Dry Density and Optimum Moisture. To work in conjunction with the new Standard Practice R 75; Developing a Family of Curves. T 272 originally did not adequately address developing the family of curves.

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Appendix: 2015 Completed Items

- **Develop a Field Operating Procedure (FOP) library**
Standardized FOPs for agencies to use will create consistency in test methods. Agencies will not need to repeat the effort and expense of developing FOPs or state test methods.

AASHTO revisions:

- **R 67; Sampling Asphalt Mixtures after Compaction (Obtaining Cores)** – Formerly WAQTC TM 11; Obtaining Cores, has been adopted by AASHTO as a full standard.
- **T 99; Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 2.5-kg (5.5-lb) Rammer and a 305-mm (12-in) Drop** – Revised test method extensively and included the former T 224; Correction for Coarse Particles in the Soil Compaction Test as an annex.
- **T 121; Density (Unit Weight), Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Concrete** – Include dampening the measure in the procedure
- **T 180; Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 4.54-kg (10-lb) Rammer and a 457-mm (18-in) Drop** – Revised test method extensively and included the former T 224; Correction for Coarse Particles in the Soil Compaction Test as an annex.
- **T 224; Correction for Coarse Particles in the Soil Compaction Test** – Discontinued, it is now included in T 99 and T 180 as an annex.
- **T 265, Laboratory Determination of Moisture Content of Soils** – Introduced missing information to determine ‘constant mass’
- **T 309; Temperature of Freshly Mixed Portland Cement Concrete** – A new AASHTO procedure submitted by WAQTC and developed from the original WAQTC TM 10.
- **T 329; Moisture Content of Asphalt Mixtures by Oven Method** – Added revisions in Note 1 and a correction to the equation for constant mass
- **T 355; In-Place Density of Asphalt Mixtures by Nuclear Methods** – Formerly WAQTC TM 8; In-place Density of HMA by Nuclear Methods, has been adopted by AASHTO as a full standard.

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Appendix: 2014 Completed Items

- **Develop Marketing Brochure**

A marketing brochure will be developed and posted on the WAQTC website. The brochure will be provided to other selected officials to market the organization to non-member agencies.

AASHTO revisions:

- **T 22, Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens** – Added perpendicularity language for 4 by 8 cylinders and definitions for types of fracture
- **T 248, Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size** – Added Combined Coarse and Fine Aggregate to method selection