



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Regional Engineers
From: Jack A. Elston 
Subject: Special Provision for Surface Testing of Pavements – IRI
Date: September 25, 2020

This special provision was developed by the Bureau of Research to bring the Department's surface testing requirements up to state-of-the-practice by using the International Roughness Index (IRI), which provides a better representation of the ride quality experienced by motorists. This special provision also adds a new Illinois Test Procedure and improves quality assurance (QA) testing methods.

This special provision should be inserted with contracts involving portland cement concrete pavement, hot-mix asphalt pavement (full-depth), or HMA overlays with a minimum of 2.00 inches total thickness of new HMA material and at least two activities. An activity is defined as either cold milling or a lift of HMA (binder or surface).

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the January 15, 2021 and subsequent lettings. The Project Coordination and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory September 25, 2020.

80435m

SURFACE TESTING OF PAVEMENTS – IRI (BDE)

Effective: January 1, 2021

Description. This work shall consist of testing the ride quality of the finished surface of pavements, according to Illinois Test Procedure 43, “Ride Quality Testing Using the International Roughness Index (IRI)”. Work shall be according to Sections 406, 407, or 420 of the Standard Specifications, except as modified herein.

Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA) Overlays

Revise Article 406.03(h) of the Standard Specifications to read:

“(h) Pavement Surface Grinding Equipment.....1101.04”

Revise Article 406.11 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“406.11 Surface Tests. Prior to pavement improvements, the Engineer will measure the smoothness of the existing high-speed mainline pavement. The Contractor shall measure the smoothness of the finished high-speed mainline, low-speed mainline, and miscellaneous pavements within three days of paving. Testing shall be performed in the presence of the Engineer and according to Illinois Test Procedure 43. The pavement will be identified as high-speed mainline, low-speed mainline, or miscellaneous as follows.

(a) Test Sections

- (1) High-Speed Mainline Pavement. High-speed mainline pavement shall consist of pavements, ramps, and loops with a posted speed limit greater than 40 mph. These sections shall be tested with an inertial profiling system (IPS).
- (2) Low-Speed Mainline Pavement. Low-speed mainline pavement shall consist of pavements, ramps, and loops with a posted speed limit of 40 mph or less. These sections shall be tested with an IPS.
- (3) Miscellaneous Pavement. Miscellaneous pavement includes segments that either cannot readily be tested by an inertial profiler or conditions beyond the control of the contractor preclude the achievement of smoothness levels typically achievable with mainline pavement construction. This may include the following examples or as determined by the Engineer.
 - (a) Pavement on horizontal curves with a centerline radius of curvature of less than or equal to 1,000 ft (300 m) and the pavement within the superelevation transition of such curves;

- (b) Pavement on vertical curves having a length less than or equal to 200 ft (60 m) in combination with an algebraic change in tangent grade greater than or equal to 3 percent as may occur on urban ramps or other constricted-space facilities;
- (c) The first and last 50 ft (15 m) of a pavement section where the Contractor is not responsible for the adjoining surface;
- (d) Intersections and the 25 ft (7.6 m) before and after an intersection or end of radius return;
- (e) Variable width pavements;
- (f) Side street returns, to the end of radius return;
- (g) Crossovers;
- (h) Connector pavement from the mainline pavement expansion joint to the bridge approach slab;
- (i) Bridge approach slab;
- (j) Pavement that must be constructed in multiple short segments, typically defined as 600 ft (180m) or less;
- (k) Pavement within 25 ft (7.6 m) of manholes, utility structures, or other appurtenances;
- (l) Turn lanes.

Miscellaneous pavement shall be tested using a 16 ft (5 m) straightedge.

- (4) International Roughness Index (IRI). An index computed from a longitudinal profile measurement using a quarter-car simulation at a simulation speed of 50 mph (80 km/h).
- (5) Mean Roughness Index (MRI). The average of the IRI values for the right and left wheel tracks.
- (6) Areas of Localized Roughness (ALR). Isolated areas of roughness, which can cause significant increase in the calculated MRI for a given subplot.
- (7) Lot. A lot will be defined as a continuous strip of pavement 1 mile (1,600 m) long and one lane wide. When the length of a continuous strip of pavement is less than 1 mile (1,600 m), that pavement will be included in an adjacent lot. Structures will be omitted when measuring pavement length, but will not be considered as a discontinuity and

the numbering of sublots will not restart. The limits of the structure shall include the entire length between the outside ends of both connector pavements.

- (8) Sublot. Lots will be divided into 0.1 mile (160 m) sublots. A partial sublot greater than or equal to 264 ft (80 m) resulting from an interruption in the pavement will be subject to the same evaluation as a whole sublot. Partial sublots less than 264 ft (80 m) shall be included with the previous sublot for evaluation purposes.

(b) Corrective Work. Corrective work shall be completed according to the following.

- (1) High-Speed Mainline Pavement. For high-speed mainline pavement, any 25 ft (7.6 m) interval with an ALR in excess of 150 in./mile (2,400 mm/km) will be identified by the Engineer and shall be corrected by the Contractor. Any sublot having a MRI greater than 100.0 in./mile (1,580 mm/km), including ALR, shall be corrected to reduce the MRI to the full pay threshold, or replaced at the Contractor's option.
- (2) Low-Speed Mainline and Miscellaneous Pavements. Bumps in low-speed mainline pavement or miscellaneous pavement which exceed the 5/16 in. (8 mm) tolerance will be identified by the Engineer and shall be corrected by the Contractor.

Corrective work shall be completed with pavement surface grinding equipment or by removing and replacing the pavement. Corrective work shall be applied to the full lane width. When completed, the corrected area shall have uniform texture and appearance, with the beginning and ending of the corrected area normal to the centerline of the paved surface.

Upon completion of the corrective work, the surface of the sublot(s) shall be retested. The Contractor shall furnish the data and reports to the Engineer within 2 working days after corrections are made. If the MRI and/or ALR still do not meet the requirements, additional corrective work shall be performed. For sublot(s) that are replaced, assessments will be based on the MRI determined after replacement.

Corrective work shall be at no additional cost to the Department.

(c) Smoothness Assessments. Assessments will be paid to or deducted from the Contractor for each sublot of mainline pavement per the Smoothness Assessment Schedule. Assessments will be based on the MRI of each sublot prior to performing any corrective work unless the Contractor has chosen to remove and replace the sublot. For sublots that are replaced, assessments will be based on the MRI determined after replacement.

- (1) High-Speed Mainline Pavement. The upper MRI thresholds for high-speed mainline pavement are dependent on the MRI of the existing pavement before construction (MRI_0) and shall be determined as follows.

Upper MRI Thresholds ^{1/}	MRI Thresholds (High-Speed, HMA Overlay)	
	MRI ₀ ≤ 125.0 in./mile (≤ 1,975 mm/km)	MRI ₀ > 125.0 in./mile ^{1/} (> 1,975 mm/km)
Incentive (MRI _I)	45.0 in./mile (710 mm/km)	0.2 × MRI ₀ + 20
Full Pay (MRI _F)	75.0 in./mile (1,190 mm/km)	0.2 × MRI ₀ + 50
Disincentive (MRI _D)	100.0 in./mile (1,975 mm/km)	0.2 × MRI ₀ + 75

1/ MRI₀, MRI_I, MRI_F, and MRI_D shall be in in./mile for calculation.

Smoothness assessments for high-speed mainline pavement shall be determined as follows.

SMOOTHNESS ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE (High-Speed, HMA Overlay)	
Mainline Pavement MRI Range	Assessment Per Sublot ^{1/}
MRI ≤ MRI _I	+ (MRI _I – MRI) × \$33.00 ^{2/}
MRI _I < MRI ≤ MRI _F	+ \$0.00
MRI _F < MRI ≤ MRI _D	– (MRI – MRI _F) × \$20.00
MRI > MRI _D	– \$500.00

1/ MRI, MRI_I, MRI_F, and MRI_D shall be in in./mile for calculation.

2/ The maximum incentive amount shall not exceed \$500.00.

Smoothness assessments will not be paid or deducted until all other contract requirements for the pavement are satisfied. Pavement that is corrected or replaced for reasons other than smoothness, shall be retested as stated herein.”

Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA) Pavement (Full-Depth)

Revise the first paragraph of Article 407.03 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“407.03 Equipment. Equipment shall be according to Article 406.03.”

Revise Article 407.09 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“407.09 Surface Tests. The finished surface of the pavement shall be tested for smoothness according to Article 406.11, except as follows:

The testing of the existing pavement prior to improvements shall not apply and the smoothness assessment for high-speed mainline pavement shall be determined according to the following table.

SMOOTHNESS ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE (High-Speed, Full-Depth HMA)	
Mainline Pavement MRI, in./mile (mm/km)	Assessment Per Sublot ^{1/}
≤ 45.0 (710)	+ (45 – MRI) × \$80.00 ^{2/}
> 45.0 (710) to 75.0 (1,190)	+ \$0.00
> 75.0 (1,190) to 100.0 (1,580)	– (MRI – 75) × \$30.00
> 100.0 (1,580)	– \$750.00

1/ MRI shall be in in./mile for calculation.

2/ The maximum incentive amount shall not exceed \$1,200.00.”

Portland Cement Concrete Pavement

Delete Article 420.03(i) of the Standard Specifications.

Revise Article 420.03(j) of the Standard Specifications to read:

“(i) Coring Machine (Note 1)”

Revise Article 420.10 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“**420.10 Surface Tests.** The finished surface of the pavement shall be tested for smoothness according to Article 406.11, except as follows.

The testing of the existing pavement prior to improvements shall not apply. The Contractor shall measure the smoothness of the finished surface of the pavement after the pavement has attained a flexural strength of 250 psi (3,800 kPa) or a compressive strength of 1,600 psi (20,700 kPa).

Membrane curing damaged during testing shall be repaired as directed by the Engineer at no additional cost to the Department.

- (a) Corrective Work. No further texturing for skid resistance will be required for areas corrected by grinding. Protective coat shall be reapplied to ground areas according to Article 420.18 at no additional cost to the Department.

Pavement corrected by removal and replacement, shall be corrected in full panel sizes.

- (b) Smoothness Assessments. Smoothness assessment for high-speed mainline pavement shall be determined as follows.

SMOOTHNESS ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE (High-Speed, PCC)	
Mainline Pavement MRI, in./mile (mm/km) ^{3/}	Assessment Per Sublot ^{1/}
≤ 45.0 (710)	+ (45 – MRI) × \$120.00 ^{2/}
> 45.0 (710) to 75.0 (1,190)	+ \$0.00
> 75.0 (1,190) to 100.0 (1,580)	– (MRI – 75) × \$45.00
> 100.0 (1,580)	– \$1,125.00

1/ MRI shall be in in./mile for calculation.

2/ The maximum incentive amount shall not exceed \$1,800.00.

3/ If pavement is constructed with traffic in the lane next to it, then an additional 10 in./mile will be added to the upper thresholds.”

Testing Equipment

Delete Article 1101.10 of the Standard Specifications.

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