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Highways Department Technical Circular No. 5/2010

Testing of OPC, PFA and PPFAC by the  
Public Works Central Laboratory

This Circular updates and supersedes HyDTC No. 5/94, which is hereby cancelled.

Introduction

2. This Circular is basically a reproduction of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) Technical Circular No. 39/2004.
3. The purpose of this Circular is to set out the current arrangement for the testing of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA) and Portland Pulverised Fuel Ash Cement (PPFAC) by the Public Works Central Laboratory (PWCL) in which emphasis is placed on monitoring of the quality of the commonly used brands of OPC, PFA and PPFAC.

Effective date

4. This circular shall take immediate effect.

Background

5. The PWCL maintains a register of the commonly used brands of OPC, PFA and PPFAC used in Government contracts. Based on the register, the PWCL shall conduct tests on these commonly used brands of OPC, PFA and PPFAC.
6. A bimonthly report on the test results will be compiled by the PWCL and launched on CEDD's website. The report will normally cover all the common brands of OPC, PFA and PPFAC used in Government contracts.

Guidelines/Procedures

7. Based on the above register, PWCL shall obtain samples of OPC, PFA and PPFAC directly from suppliers for testing. If samples of OPC, PFA and PPFAC cannot be obtained directly from suppliers, PWCL may also request samples of OPC, PFA and PPFAC to be sent from relevant Government contracts.

8. Testing of OPC, PFA and PPFAC samples outside the above routine programme may be necessary from time to time. For example, OPC, PFA and PPFAC stored on site may have become contaminated as a result of inadequate protection. In such cases, Engineer's Representative (ER) should provide explanations of the special circumstances when requests for additional testing are sent to the PWCL. Depending on the reasons for such additional testing, the test results may or may not be included in a bimonthly report.

9. The reports on the testing of OPC, PFA and PPFAC will normally be used by ER for:

(a) approval of a contractor's proposal to use a certain brand of OPC, PFA or PPFAC; and

(b) monitoring of the continuous compliance with the specifications of the brands of OPC, PFA and PPFAC being used in their contracts.

10. Enquiries on the contents of this Circular, advice on the use of the test reports, as well as requests for additional copies of the reports, should be directed to Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Standards and Testing, CEDD.

(Original Signed)  
(WAN Man-lung)  
Director of Highways (Ag.)