



MEMO

DATE: March 16, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 PennDOT/NECEPT Asphalt Technician Certification Program and Impacts from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

TO: All District Executives
Assistant District Executives – Construction

FROM: Joseph S. Robinson, P.E., Acting Chief
Construction and Materials Division
Bureau of Project Delivery

Joseph S. Robinson

In accordance with Governor Wolf's March 11, 2020 directive on Planning for Large Meetings, Conferences, Trainings, and Community Events and based on advice from the Department of Health regarding the mitigation of the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and based on Penn State University's March 11, 2020 decision to move to remote learning for all classes beginning Monday, March 16, through Friday, April 3, the remaining scheduled in-person PennDOT/NECEPT Asphalt Technician Certification Program courses have been canceled. Attempts will be made to provide some of the remaining courses through a webinar or to reschedule some courses in late April or May should the situation with COVID-19 improve. The following will apply for the 2020 construction season:

- Asphalt Field Technician Update/Refresher Courses. The two remaining scheduled 2020 in-person courses have been canceled (March 24 and April 1). An attempt will be made to provide this course as a webinar in early April 2020.
- Asphalt Field Technician Review and Certification Courses. The two remaining scheduled 2020 in-person courses have been canceled (March 25 and April 1 start dates). An attempt will be made to reschedule one or more courses in late April or May should the situation with COVID-19 improve.
- Superpave Volumetric Mix Design Workshop. The one remaining scheduled 2020 in-person course has been canceled (March 31 start date). An attempt will be made to reschedule the course in May should the situation with COVID-19 improve.
- 2020 Asphalt Certification Exam Retests. Currently, the two post-season, in-person Asphalt Certification Exam Retests have not been canceled (April 17 and May 15). If concerns continue with COVID-19, one or both of these post-season, in-person Asphalt Certification Exam Retests may be canceled. If one or both are canceled, they will be rescheduled.

- Existing certified Asphalt Field Technicians with certification expiration dates in 2020 seeking certification renewal under Publication 351, Option A – Learning Activities and that have not already attended an Asphalt Field Technician Update/Refresher course offered in 2020 or have not already attended a second learning activity offered in 2020 before it was canceled due to COVID-19 (e.g., 2020 PAPA Regional Technical Meetings), these Asphalt Field Technicians will have their certification expiration date extended until April 30, 2021. Upon completing certification renewal requirements in 2020 or 2021, certification renewal will have a certification expiration date of April 30, 2025 (5-years from original 2020 certification expiration date).
- Existing certified Asphalt Level 1 or Level 2 Plant Technicians with certification expiration dates in 2020 seeking certification renewal under Publication 351, Option A – Learning Activities and that have not already attended a second learning activity offered in 2020 before it was canceled due to COVID-19 (e.g., 2020 PAPA Regional Technical Meetings), these Asphalt Level 1 and Level 2 Plant Technicians will have their certification expiration date extended until April 30, 2021. Upon completing certification renewal requirements in 2020 or 2021, certification renewal will have a certification expiration date of April 30, 2025 (5-years from original 2020 certification expiration date).
- Existing Asphalt Field Technicians-in-Training that have not already attended an Asphalt Field Technician Review and Certification Course offered in 2020 will have their Asphalt Field Technician-in-Training status extended through April 30, 2021.
- Individuals seeking to obtain their Asphalt Field Technician – Initial Certification in 2020 that have not already attended an Asphalt Field Technician Review and Certification Course offered in 2020 can complete the Asphalt Field Technician-in-Training requirements outlined in Pub. 351.
- Individuals seeking to attend a Superpave Volumetric Mix Design Workshop in 2020 that have not already attended a 2020 Workshop will need to wait until the canceled 2020 Workshop is rescheduled or wait until the 2021 Course Season to attend a Superpave Volumetric Mix Design Workshop.
- If an existing certified Asphalt Technician with a certification expiration date in 2020 attends a required Asphalt Field Technician Update/Refresher Course or second learning activity rescheduled by a webinar held in 2020, they are to immediately seek certification renewal upon completing the required Learning Activity.

If there are any questions or additional information is required, please contact Timothy L. Ramirez, P.E., Acting Chief Materials Engineer at telephone 717.783.6602 or by email at tramirez@pa.gov.

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