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**Memorandum**

To: Distribution

From: Tom Martin, P.E.  and Jim Davies, P.E.   
Environmental Bureau Chief Materials Bureau Chief

Date: November 25, 2019

Subject: Seed Acceptance Method

This memo is being distributed to explain a modification to the acceptance method for seed (713.08), which is being implemented to simplify the seed selection, inspection, and acceptance process. Effective January 23, 2020 the Department's Qualified Product List (QPL), will be used to select suppliers for reclamation seed in lieu of acceptance based on certification of an approved seed blend report.

The standard specification for seed will remain 713.08, but the heading will be changed from RECLAMATION SEED to SEED. Two subcategories will be added to this specification.

- a. 713.08.01 will be added as "RECLAMATION SEED", requiring the supplier to be listed on the QPL. Seed must meet 713.08.
- b. 713.08.02 will be added as "LANDSCAPING SEED" and will not require the supplier to be listed on the QPL. Seed must meet 713.08.

The intent of the two categories is to continue the use of customized seed blends for reclamation seed and to allow a non-customized seed blend for landscaping seed.

To prepare for this modification the number of seed species used in reclamation seed blends was decreased and the Montana Department of Agriculture's Seed Licensing Program is being used to list suppliers on the QPL. The Licensing Program requires seed suppliers and labelers to keep their Montana Department of Agriculture License as a Seed Dealer up to date and maintain up to date records. MDT will perform facility inspections to check that all products meet MDT specifications outlined in subsection 713.08. The seed supplier will be removed from the QPL if all the requirements are not meet.

The process for developing the record in AASHTOWare and receiving the material in the field remains substantially the same. The only change is that seed will be accepted as an Approved Material instead of a Pre-inspected material. It is important to note that the project manager will still be required to verify the contract requirements are met by reviewing the labels

on the seed bags delivered to the project, including any substitutions as approved by the reclamation specialist.

These changes will result in process efficiencies for MDT, contractors and seed suppliers. They will also result in lower overall process-related costs for MDT and may result in lower seed costs. Quality, revegetation success and construction methods are not expected to diminish relative to these changes. MDT will be monitoring revegetation efforts to validate those expectations or to provide data for adaptive management changes.

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