METHODS OF SAMPLING AND TESTING
MT 103-07
METHOD FOR MEASURING THE THICKNESS OF IN-PLACE CONCRETE BY USE OF CONCRETE THICKNESS GAUGE
(Montana Method)

1 Scope

1.1 This method covers the procedure for measuring the thickness of concrete pavements. Thickness is determined by using a concrete thickness gauge to measure the time required for an echo to bounce off the backside of the concrete member being tested. The thickness is a product of the velocity of sound in the material and one half the transit time (round trip) through the material.

2 Referenced Documents

AASHTO
T 148 Measuring Length of Drilled Concrete Cores

MT Materials Manual
MT 606 Selecting Sampling Locations by Random Sampling Technique

3 Apparatus

3.1 *Standard Surveying Equipment* – EDM, mirrors, level, rod, etc.

3.2 *Concrete Thickness Gauge*

3.3 *Core Drill* – for obtaining cylindrical core specimens

3.4 *Measuring Tape*

4 Vertical Control

4.1 When possible, it is recommended that at least one vertical control point be established for each day's placement of concrete, using survey methods prior to placement. After the concrete has hardened sufficiently, remeasure the same control point to determine the depth of the finished concrete. Use this point as a calibration point for the concrete thickness gauge. (Pre-established reference points and grade control points may also be used to determine concrete thickness).

5 Gauge Calibration Methods

5.1 Gauge Calibration

Place the concrete thickness gauge on the concrete, at the pre-established vertical control point, and calibrate according to the manufacturer's instructions. The gauge will now establish the velocity for the specific class of concrete being tested.

5.2 Direct Input Method

Following the manufacturer's instructions, a direct input method may be used to calibrate the concrete thickness gauge. For the purpose of this method, a core will be taken to determine the actual thickness of the placed concrete. The concrete thickness gauge will then be calibrated using the core thickness.

6 Procedure

6.1 Calibrate the gauge according to one of the procedures described above. **The gauge must be calibrated on the concrete to be tested or the correct velocity entered into the gauge.** The calibration should be done on a smooth, clean surface to obtain the best data possible. This data will be used for all subsequent tests and all tests must be completed on the same day as the gauge calibration.

6.2 Randomly select test locations according to MT 606 Random Sampling Technique or as directed by the Engineering Project manager.

6.3 At the test location, take four measurements by rotating the gauge around a center point, collecting readings every 90 degrees. Average the results.

Note 1 – Make certain that the test head of the concrete thickness gauge is in good contact with the concrete surface. Testing should be done on a smooth clean surface to obtain the best data possible.

7 Calculation

7.1 Record gauge readings to the hundredth of a foot or (mm) on the attached form.

7.2 Record the average of the four (4) readings from each test location to a hundredth of a foot or (mm).

7.3 Determine and record the concrete thickness variation by subtracting the average of the four readings from the design thickness and record to the nearest hundredth of a foot (mm).

8 Report

8.1 Project Number
Project Name
Name of Tester
Title
Address
Date Measurements made
Test Location/Station
Test results

Montana Department of Transportation
Materials Division

REPORT ON DEPTH OF PCCP CONCRETE

Lab No. _____ Project No. _____

Project Name _____ Gauge No. _____

Tested by _____ Title _____ District _____

Submitted By _____ Date Tested _____

Sta. of section _____ Date Placed _____

Sta. Cal or Tested	Depth measurement at four points				Average Depth

Remarks:

Design thickness of PCCP _____ (in / mm)

Avg. variation from design _____ (in / mm)

Distr.
1-Materials Bureau
1-Constr Bureau
1-Pavement Analysis Sec.
1-EPM
1-Dist/Area Lab

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