Bridge Contract Administration: Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories conducting Mill Test Report Verification

The Standard Specifications for Bridge Construction (SSBC), Editions 15 and 16 require mill test reports originating outside of Canada or the United States of America be verified by a certified laboratory in Canada. The intent of this construction bulletin is to provide supplementary information of the requirements for laboratory accreditation bodies to support administration of existing contracts.

In accordance with the SSBC, laboratories conducting mill test report verification are required to be accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). The Standards Council of Canada is part of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA). ILAC MRA provides consistency in evaluation of products and materials and reduces the need for additional calibration, testing, and inspection across national borders. ILAC MRA signatories agree to accept the results of each other's accredited conformity assessment bodies under the ILAC MRA.

For existing Contracts, if the Contractor proposes to use a laboratory in Canada accredited by a North American accreditation body to ISO/IEC 17025 for the tests required instead of the SCC, and the accreditation body is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA), the Department will accept this proposal. No separate or additional payment will be considered as part of this acceptance.

For future Contracts that will include reference to SSBC 2017, Edition 16 a specification amendment has been developed and should be included. Content of the specification amendment is as follows:

The following paragraph contained in SSBC Subsections 3.2.1.1, 5.3, 6.2.3.5, 7.2.3.3, 8.3.3.3, 12.2.3.3, 18.2.4.1, 24.2.2.3.4, 25.3.1, 26.2.4.3:

Where mill test reports originate from a mill outside Canada or the United States of America, the Contractor shall have mill test reports verified by a certified laboratory in Canada by testing the material to the specified material standards, including boron content. The testing laboratory shall be certified to ISO/IEC 17025 by an organization accredited by the Standards Council of Canada for the tests required. Samples for testing shall be collected by personnel employed by the certified laboratory. A verification letter shall be provided by the certified laboratory that includes at a minimum, the applicable mill test reports, testing standards, date of verification testing, and declaration of material compliance with Contract requirements. The verification letter shall be signed by an authorized officer of the certified laboratory.

Shall be replaced with the following paragraph:

Where mill test reports originate from a mill outside Canada or the United States of America, the Contractor shall have mill test reports verified by a certified laboratory in Canada by testing the material to the specified material standards, including boron content. The testing laboratory shall be accredited by a North American accreditation body to ISO/IEC 17025 for

the tests required. The accreditation body shall be a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA). Preparation and collection of samples for testing shall be directed and witnessed by or completed by personnel employed by the testing laboratory. A verification letter shall be provided by the testing laboratory that includes accreditation documentation, applicable mill test reports, testing standards, date of verification testing, and declaration of material compliance with Contract requirements. The verification letter shall be signed by an authorized officer of the testing laboratory.

Effective Date: January 10, 2018. Questions on this bulletin may be directed to Clayton Matwychuk (780) 415-0437.

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