



AASHTO Accreditation Program Policy and Guidance on ASTM D421 and ASTM D422

Policy taken from Section 2 of the [Procedures Manual for the Accreditation of Construction Materials Testing Laboratories](#).

If a standards development organization fails to reapprove a standard within the time period established for re-approval, AASHTO may still offer accreditation for the standard even though it is no longer being published provided that the standard is still being used in the testing industry.

Policy

1. AASHTO re:source and the AASHTO Accreditation Program will continue to offer assessment, proficiency sample testing, and accreditation services related to ASTM D421, *Standard Practice for Dry Preparation of Soil Samples for Particle-Size Analysis and Determination of Soil Constants*, and ASTM D422, *Standard Test Method for Particle-Size Analysis of Soils*, so long as the standards are being widely used in the construction materials industry.
2. The AASHTO Accreditation Program requires laboratories that wish to maintain accreditation for ASTM D422 to also maintain accreditation for ASTM D421 because the preparation of the test specimen for ASTM D422 is contained within ASTM D421.
3. Because ASTM D421 and D422 are no longer being maintained by ASTM Committee D18, certain aspects of the standards will not be updated even though clarifications are needed to ensure consistent testing is performed by the laboratories. The AASHTO Accreditation Program issues clarification where these situations exist. These clarifications are listed below:
 - 3.1. The specific gravity of the soil is required to be used in the equations, and the laboratory cannot use an assumed value for specific gravity. The standard does not specify how that value is to be determined, but if it is not determined according to ASTM D854 by the laboratory, it shall be determined through another method, which may include past test results on the same soil as determined by the laboratory, test results from another laboratory, or a soil survey for the specific soil under test.