1. Background and Rationale

1.1. In order to provide an alternative method of accreditation during the period in which on-site assessments are temporarily suspended, AASHTO re:source is conducting remote assessments.

1.2. This policy is intended to replace both normal in-sequence on-site assessments and out of sequence on-site assessments (including supplemental and surveillance assessments) as required by the AASHTO Accreditation Procedures Manual during the period in which on-site assessments are temporarily suspended.

1.3. This policy is only for remote assessments through AASHTO re:source that cover the testing scopes of aggregate, asphalt binder, asphalt mixture, emulsified asphalt, iron and steel, pavement preservation, rock, soil, and sprayed fire-resistive material. This policy is not applicable to the Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory (CCRL). For information on CCRL visit www.ccrl.us or email them at ccrl@astm.org.

2. Terminology

2.1. new laboratories / initial accreditation – laboratories that need AASHTO accreditation for the first time.

2.2. new laboratories / assessment only (no accreditation) – laboratories that are new customers and are required to receive an assessment, but not accreditation, through AASHTO.

   NOTE 1 – Examples include the Hands-On Local Acceptance (HOLA) Program in Pennsylvania and West Virginia assessments.

2.3. in-sequence assessments / currently accredited – laboratories that are currently accredited and need an in-sequence assessment to maintain accreditation.

2.4. in-sequence assessments / assessment only (no accreditation) – laboratories that are required to receive an assessment, but not accreditation, through AASHTO.

   NOTE 2 – Examples include the Hands-On Local Acceptance (HOLA) Program in Pennsylvania and West Virginia assessments.

2.5. supplement assessment – laboratories that need to add test methods to their current AASHTO accreditation scope.

2.6. surveillance B assessment – laboratories that need an assessment in order to have their accreditation reinstated.

2.7. test reports – the final communication that is sent to an external source to summarize the results of testing.

3. Laboratory Eligibility Requirements

3.1. In order to be eligible for a remote assessment, the laboratory must be in good standing with AASHTO re:source and/or the AASHTO Accreditation Program. This includes, but is not limited to:

   3.1.1. No recent history of falsified records or other ethical violations as defined in the AASHTO Accreditation Program Procedures Manual for the Accreditation of Construction Materials Testing Laboratories.

   3.1.2. No recent history of non-payment concerns and/or overdue invoices.

4. Technology Requirements

4.1. The laboratory shall have access to adequate equipment and resources with which to live stream the assessment. The video and sound need to be of sufficient quality that the details of the test procedures and equipment details are clear.

4.2. Wi-Fi and/or Cellular Service: The laboratory shall have reliable Wi-Fi and/or cellular service throughout all areas in the building that testing will be conducted.

4.3. Software Requirements: The laboratory shall download ZOOM Software on all computers, tablets, and phones that will be used during the remote assessment.
NOTE 3 – If your organization does not allow the use of ZOOM, other software, such as Microsoft Teams and Skype are available for use.

5. Application Process

5.1. New Laboratories / Initial Accreditation

5.1.1. Register for an AASHTO re:source online account.

5.1.1.1. To register, complete the Registration Request Form. An Access Code and Passkey will then be issued and the user will be able to create a unique login associated with their email address and a password of their choosing.

5.1.2. Request an assessment:

5.1.2.1. Login to the AASHTO re:source website, click Request an Assessment, and select the desired quality system standard(s) and test method(s) (Steps 2 and 3).

5.1.2.2. Select the box to "Request an Out-of-Sequence assessment” (Step 4).

5.1.2.3. Choose the desired assessment date.

5.1.2.4. Submit the request.

5.1.3. Submit the required documents and records as described on the Remote Assessment page to the Pre-Assessment page on the AASHTO re:source website. The remote assessment will not be scheduled until all of the documentation required on the Remote Assessment page is uploaded, including the following:

5.1.3.1. Remote Assessment Agreement

5.1.3.2. Technician Matrix

5.1.3.3. All of the documents described in the Remote Assessment AASHTO R 18 Required Documents and Records List.

5.1.4. If the laboratory is seeking accreditation for any of the following ASTM Quality System Standards submit the following documents as applicable.

5.1.4.1. Remote Assessment C1077 Required Document and Records

5.1.4.2. Remote Assessment D3666 Required Documents and Records

5.1.4.3. Remote Assessment D3740 Required Documents and Records

5.1.4.4. Remote Assessment E329 Required Documents and Records

5.1.5. Enroll in the applicable Proficiency Sample Program(s).

5.2. New Laboratories / Assessment Only (No Accreditation)

5.2.1. Register for an AASHTO re:source online account.

5.2.1.1. To register, complete the Registration Request Form. An Access Code and Passkey will then be issued and the user will be able to create a unique login associated with their email address and a password of their choosing.

5.2.2. Request an assessment:

5.2.2.1. Login to the AASHTO re:source website, click Request an Assessment, and select the desired test method(s) (Step 3).

5.2.2.2. Select the box “Request an Out-of-Sequence assessment” (Step 4).

5.2.2.3. Choose the desired assessment date.

5.2.2.4. Submit the request.

5.2.3. Submit the required documents and records as described on the Remote Assessment page to the Pre-Assessment page on the AASHTO re:source website. The remote assessment will not be scheduled until the following documentation is uploaded:

5.2.3.1. Remote Assessment Agreement

5.2.3.2. Technician Matrix

5.2.4. It is recommended that in addition to the required documents described in Section 5.2.3, that the following documents be submitted prior to the assessment:

5.2.4.1. Calibration, standardization, and check records for a test methods that will be covered during the assessment that have specific requirements contained in the test method (Example: AASHTO T 312, Standard Method of Test for Preparing and Determining the Density of Asphalt Mixture Specimens by Means of the Superpave Gyratory Compactor).
5.3. **In-Sequence Assessments / Currently Accredited**

5.3.1. When notified to do so by AASHTO re:source, request an assessment.

5.3.1.1. Login to the AASHTO re:source website, click **Request an Assessment**, and select the desired quality system standard(s) and test method(s) (Steps 2 and 3).

5.3.1.2. Submit the request.

5.3.1.3. Failure to submit a request in the time frame requested may result in an out-of-sequence assessment, additional assessment fees, and accreditation action. Please see the AASHTO Accreditation Program Policy and Guidance on Requesting and Receiving In-Sequence Assessments from AASHTO re:source for more information.

5.3.2. Submit the required documents and records as described on the Remote Assessment page to the Pre-Assessment page on the AASHTO re:source website. The remote assessment will not be scheduled until the following documentation is uploaded:

5.3.2.1. Remote Assessment Agreement
5.3.2.2. Technician Matrix

5.3.3. In addition to the documents required in Section 5.3.2, it is highly recommended that all of the documents described in the Remote Assessment AASHTO R 18 Required Documents and Records List be submitted in order to expedite and reduce the cost of the remote of assessment. If your laboratory is seeking or maintaining accreditation for any of the following ASTM Quality System Standards it is also recommended that all of the documents described in the lists below be submitted as well:

5.3.3.1. Remote Assessment C1077 Required Document and Records
5.3.3.2. Remote Assessment D3666 Required Documents and Records
5.3.3.3. Remote Assessment D3740 Required Documents and Records
5.3.3.4. Remote Assessment E329 Required Documents and Records

5.3.4. If new test methods are added to your accreditation scope during this assessment tour, enroll in Proficiency Sample Program(s), as applicable.

5.4. **In-Sequence Assessments / No Accreditation (Assessment Only)**

5.4.1. When notified to do so by AASHTO re:source, request an assessment.

5.4.1.1. Login to the AASHTO re:source website, click **Request an Assessment**, and select the desired test method(s) (Step 3).

5.4.1.2. Submit the request.

5.4.2. Submit the required documents and records as described on the Remote Assessment page to the Pre-Assessment page on the AASHTO re:source website. The remote assessment will not be scheduled until the following documentation is uploaded:

5.4.2.1. Remote Assessment Agreement
5.4.2.2. Technician Matrix

5.4.3. It is recommended that in addition to the required documents described in Section 5.2.3, that the following documents be submitted prior to the assessment:

5.4.3.1. Calibration, standardization, and check records for a test methods that will be covered during the assessment that have specific requirements contained in the test method (Example: AASHTO T 312, Standard Method of Test for Preparing and Determining the Density of Asphalt Mixture Specimens by Means of the Superpave Gyratory Compactor).

5.5. **Supplemental Assessment**

5.5.1. Request an assessment:

5.5.1.1. Login to the AASHTO re:source website, click **Request an Assessment**, and select the desired quality system standard(s) and test method(s) (Steps 2 and 3).

5.5.1.2. Select the box to “Request an Out-of-Sequence assessment” (Step 4).

5.5.1.3. Choose the desired assessment date.

5.5.1.4. Submit the request.

5.5.2. Submit the required documents and records as described on the Remote Assessment page to the Pre-Assessment page on the AASHTO re:source website. The remote assessment will not be scheduled until the following documentation is uploaded:
5.5.2.1. Remote Assessment Agreement
5.5.2.2. Technician Matrix

5.5.3. In addition to the records required by Section 5.5.2, it is recommended that the following documents be submitted prior to the assessment in order to expedite the process and reduce costs:

5.5.3.1. Records of training and competency evaluations for the test methods that are being added to the scope of accreditation
5.5.3.2. Written procedures for training and competency evaluations
5.5.3.3. Records of equipment calibration, standardization, and check for each piece of equipment required for the test methods requested (see Tables in Remote Assessment AASHTO R 18 Required Documents and Records List for details)
5.5.3.4. Written procedures for in-house equipment calibrations, standardizations, checks, and maintenance for each piece of equipment required for the test methods requested
5.5.3.5. Test reports for each test method requested

5.5.4. Enroll in the applicable Proficiency Sample Program(s).

5.6. Surveillance B Assessment

5.6.1. Request an assessment:

5.6.1.1. Login to the AASHTO re:source website, click Request an Assessment, and select the desired quality system standard(s) and test method(s) (Steps 2 and 3).
5.6.1.2. Select the box to “Request an Out-of-Sequence assessment” (Step 4).
5.6.1.3. Choose the desired assessment date.
5.6.1.4. Submit the request.

5.6.2. Submit the required documents and records as described on the Remote Assessment page to the Pre-Assessment page on the AASHTO re:source website. The remote assessment will not be scheduled until the following documentation is uploaded:

5.6.2.1. Remote Assessment Agreement
5.6.2.2. Technician Matrix
5.6.2.3. All other documentation requested by the AASHTO Accreditation Program or AASHTO re:source representative

6. Scheduling Process

6.1. A representative of AASHTO re:source shall review the laboratory’s list of requested test methods and/or quality system standards, and confirm that the laboratory has uploaded all of the required documentation.
6.2. Scheduling will not take place until all requested documentation has been successfully uploaded.
6.3. Laboratories will be sent an email confirming the date of their assessment. In-sequence laboratories will typically receive the date of their assessment 4-6 weeks prior to the start date.
6.4. The representative shall contact the laboratory and schedule a one-hour Pre-Assessment Dry Run (see below) to be conducted via ZOOM.

7. Pre-Assessment Dry Run

7.1. An AASHTO re:source assessor shall call the laboratory at the appointed time via ZOOM, or other agreed-upon software.
7.2. Tour of Facility: The laboratory representative shall conduct a remote tour in order to ensure the reliability of the Wi-Fi and/or cellular service throughout the entire facility.
   
   NOTE 4 – A tablet or smartphone is recommended for the tour.
7.3. Proposed Testing Schedule: The assessor shall discuss the proposed testing schedule and confirm which technicians will be perform each test method. Any scheduling conflicts shall be addressed during this time. The assessment shall be scheduled in approximately two (2) hour increments, followed by short breaks.
7.4. If the video and sound quality are deemed sufficient in all areas of the laboratory, the assessor will schedule the remote assessment and send a finalized Assessment Agenda to the laboratory.
8. Assessment Process

8.1. **Opening Meeting**: The assessor shall conduct a brief opening meeting to discuss the purpose of the assessment and accreditation criteria (if applicable), scope of the assessment, and the assessment schedule.

*NOTE 5* – It is recommended that the laboratory manager, quality manager, and all technicians involved in the assessment are present during the opening meeting.

8.2. **Test Method Procedures**: The laboratory shall be prepared to demonstrate the entirety of the requested test method procedures. All samples used for demonstration shall be prepared prior to the assessment using the Assessment Prep Sheets.

8.2.1. In general, the camera must be positioned to keep as much of the technician and testing procedure in view as possible.

8.2.2. If there is a specific view or event that must be captured, the assessor shall communicate that with the laboratory technician prior to beginning the test method.

*NOTE 6* – Examples of specific views and events include things like thermometer and pressure gauge readings and compression machine load and/or rate measurements.

8.3. **Checking Equipment**: Depending on the testing scope, the laboratory is required to demonstrate checking the equipment in Table 1 during the remote assessment. The assessor reserves the right to choose specific laboratory personnel to check the equipment. This pertains only to equipment that is calibrated, standardized, or checked by the laboratory in-house.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Method</th>
<th>Designation(s)</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Flash (COC)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 48 / ASTM D92</td>
<td>Cup dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penetration</td>
<td>AASHTO T 49 / ASTM D5</td>
<td>Mass of the spindle and weights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ductility</td>
<td>AASHTO T 51 / ASTM D113</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag Open Flash</td>
<td>AASHTO T 79 / ASTM D3143</td>
<td>Cup dimensions and weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Gravity</td>
<td>AASHTO T 22B / ASTM D70</td>
<td>Pycnometer condition and dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Thin-Film Oven Test</td>
<td>AASHTO T 240 / ASTM D2872</td>
<td>RTFO bottles, rotation speed, and air jet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force Ductility</td>
<td>AASHTO T 300</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elastic Recovery</td>
<td>AASHTO T 301 / ASTM D6084</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bending Beam Rheometer (BBR)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 313 / ASTM D6648</td>
<td>Dimensions of the end pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toughness and Tenacity</td>
<td>AASHTO T 302 / ASTM D6208</td>
<td>Dimensions of spiders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweep Test</td>
<td>ASTM D7000</td>
<td>Weight and length of brush head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Track Abrasion of Slurry Surfacing Systems</td>
<td>ISSA TB-100 / ASTM D3910 / ASTMD6372</td>
<td>Diameter of the hose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement of Slurry Seal Consistency (Cone Consistency)</td>
<td>TB-106 / D3910</td>
<td>Dimensions of the test plate (D3910 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set and Cure Development of Slurry by Cohesion Tester</td>
<td>TB-139 / D3910 / D6372</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of Asphalt Mixtures by Marshall Apparatus</td>
<td>AASHTO R 68 / ASTM D6926</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compressive Strength of Hot Mix Asphalt</td>
<td>AASHTO T 167 / ASTM D1074</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds, plungers, and supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Kneading Compactor</td>
<td>AASHTO T 247 / ASTM D1561</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid Limit</td>
<td>AASHTO T 89 / ASTM D4318</td>
<td>Dimensions of the grooving tool, wear spot, and thickness of the rim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture-Density (Standard Proctor)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 99 / ASTM D698</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds and hammers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture-Density (Modified Proctor)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 180 / ASTM D1557</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds and hammers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance R-Value</td>
<td>AASHTO T 190 / ASTM D2844</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Bearing Ratio (CBR)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 193 / ASTM D1883</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Shear</td>
<td>AASHTO T 236 / ASTM D3080</td>
<td>Mass and diameter of the top box (D3080 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconsolidated, Undrained Triaxial Compression (UU)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 296 / ASTM D2850</td>
<td>Mass of the cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidated, Undrained Triaxial Compression (CU)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 297 / ASTM D4767</td>
<td>Mass of the cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expansion Index of Soils</td>
<td>ASTM D4829</td>
<td>Dimensions of the molds and rings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerock Bearing Ratio (LBR)</td>
<td>Florida FM1-T180</td>
<td>Dimensions of molds and hammers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture-Density Relationship of Base Materials (Texas)</td>
<td>Texas Tex-113-E</td>
<td>Dimensions of molds and hammers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Weight of Aggregate</td>
<td>AASHTO T 19 / ASTM C29</td>
<td>Condition of the measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA Abrasion</td>
<td>AASHTO T 96 / ASTM C131</td>
<td>Mass and dimensions of spheres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Equivalent</td>
<td>AASHTO T 176 / ASTM D2419</td>
<td>Height of the shelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Durability Index</td>
<td>AASHTO T 210 / ASTM D3744</td>
<td>Height of the shelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro-Deval (Coarse Aggregate)</td>
<td>AASHTO T 327 / ASTM D6928</td>
<td>Dimensions of spheres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA Abrasion (Large-Size Aggregate)</td>
<td>ASTM C535</td>
<td>Mass and dimensions of spheres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro-Deval (Fine Aggregate)</td>
<td>ASTM D7428</td>
<td>Dimensions of spheres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bend Test</td>
<td>AASHTO M 336 / ASTM A1064, AASHTO M 31-T 285 / ASTM A615-E290, AASHTO M 284 / ASTM A775, ASTM A970, ASTM A970-A370</td>
<td>Diameter of the pins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Equipment that the laboratory personnel must check during the remote assessment.
8.4. **Test Records**: Depending on the scope of the assessment, the laboratory may be required to share records and data sheets during the remote assessment.

8.5. **Assessment time**: In order to reduce fatigue on the parts of both the laboratory personnel and the assessor, the assessment shall be conducted in approximately two (2) hour increments, followed by a short break.

8.6. **Immediate Termination of the Assessment**
   8.6.1. Severe cases of misrepresentation of the laboratory testing facilities, personnel, equipment, records, or facilities may lead to the immediate termination of the assessment and/or refusal of service (see the [AASHTO Accreditation Program Procedures Manual](https://www.aashto.org/engineering-standards-and-programs/programs/aashto-accreditation-program) and [Remote Assessment Agreement Form](https://www.aashto.org/engineering-standards-and-programs/programs/aashto-accreditation-program)). This shall be done at the discretion of the assessor conducting the assessment.
   8.6.2. In the event that the remote assessment is discontinued before its completion, the laboratory will still be invoiced for the base fee and billable hours of assessment time.

8.7. **Preliminary Report and Closing Meeting**: The assessor shall share the preliminary report with the laboratory and conduct a brief meeting to discuss any findings noted during the assessment.

9. **Post-Assessment Process**
   9.1. The laboratory shall receive an email notification that the final report is ready to view, and nonconformities may be responded to at this time.
   9.2. The laboratory shall be invoiced for the remote assessment.
   9.3. New laboratories that receive a remote assessment as their initial assessment shall receive an abbreviated on-site assessment in approximately one year.

10. **Remote Assessment Fees**
    10.1. See [LAP Fees](https://www.aashto.org/engineering-standards-and-programs/programs/aashto-accreditation-program) for the information on the remote assessment fees.

11. **Resources**
    11.2. [Remote Assessment page](https://www.aashto.org/engineering-standards-and-programs/programs/aashto-accreditation-program)
    11.4. [Assessment Prep Lists](https://www.aashto.org/engineering-standards-and-programs/programs/aashto-accreditation-program)