

Participants in the 2026 Soil California Bearing Ratio Proficiency Sample Program,

The 2026 Soil California Bearing Ratio Proficiency Samples 193 and 194 are currently being processed and packaged for shipping. Please take note of the following dates and deadlines associated with these samples:

Shipping Date: March 12th, 2026

Immediately after the shipping date, please log in to the AASHTO re:source website to track your packages. From the "My Lab" page, click "Packages" in the left-hand column of the page. Please note that the packages are not shipped simultaneously. Delivery of your packages will most likely occur on different days and may not arrive in order (Box 2 may arrive before Box 1).

Please be aware that the Shipping Contact on file will receive a FedEx Shipment notification email from TrackingUpdates@FedEx.com containing tracking information. To ensure receipt of the shipment details, kindly add TrackingUpdates@FedEx.com to your contact list and make sure your Shipping Contact information is up to date in our system.

Upon receipt of the samples, please open the boxes and ensure that all contents are included. If the samples are seriously damaged or missing a component, please notify us immediately and we will send replacements. If you do not, we cannot guarantee that samples will be available with enough time for testing to be completed.

The outside of the sample boxes are labeled samples 193(A) and 194(B). The bags inside the boxes are labeled only (A) or (B). The bag labeled (A) is sample 193. The bag labeled (B) is sample 194.

Datasheets, instructions, and SDSs will be available for this sample on our website beginning on March 12th, 2026. They can be found by using the following link:

<http://www.aashtoresource.org/psp/datasheets-and-instructions>

Non-Receipt Date: March 26th, 2026

If you have not received the samples by the non-receipt date or if the samples are seriously damaged, or missing a component please notify us immediately and we will send replacements.

Closing Date: May 7th, 2026

We encourage you to submit your results online, as soon as possible. This enables you to receive instant confirmation of data submitted and revise data if needed. Test results received after the closing date will not be included in the final report.

Final Report Date: May 21st, 2026

AASHTO re:source will provide a final report approximately two weeks after the closing date. Individual laboratory reports will be provided by logging on to the AASHTO re:source website. Laboratories will be notified by email when the final report becomes available.

Of course, confidentiality of individual laboratory results will be maintained. However, general information regarding the round of testing, such as statistical summary tables and Youden scatter diagrams associated with the analysis of data, will be provided to the public on AASHTO re:source's website.

Testing Note

For each test performed please report the result of a single determination only, not the average of two or more, except in cases where an average is called for in the method or specification. The program is designed to obtain two independent test results, one for each numbered sample, for each test method that the laboratory chooses to perform.

To permit an estimate of single-operator precision, the same operator should conduct an individual test on both samples. It is not necessary that the same person conduct all the tests.

Treat each sample as you would treat a typical "testing" sample. Any special handling or preparation needs will be included below or within the Sample Instructions Document.

Special Instructions/New Test Methods

Both samples contain mixtures of manufactured sand and processed clay.

During penetration, be sure to use a load cell having an appropriate capacity. **USE CAUTION WHEN TESTING FOR PENETRATION LOAD.** Preliminary testing of the materials used for this round of testing indicated that the penetration load could reach approximately 3000 pounds when tested to 0.500 inches of penetration.

Prepare one specimen per sample using the rammer specified in T99 or D698 [5.5-lb (2.5-kg)] to compact the soil in 3 layers using 56 blows per layer.

Compact sample 193 (A) at a total water content of 8.5 percent.
Compact sample 194 (B) at a total water content of 8.5 percent.

Please review the full set of sample instructions prior to performing the testing.

No new test methods have been added to this sample program.

A complete sample schedule is available online:

<http://www.aashtoresource.org/psp/schedule>

Please contact AASHTO re:source at psp@ashtoresource.org or call 240-436-4900 if there are questions.

Sincerely,
John J. Malusky
Program Manager
AASHTO re:source Proficiency Sample Program