

QUALITY CONTROL

5-393.650

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Quality products are achieved through the efforts of properly qualified individuals using their skills effectively to produce quality results.

The objectives of a quality program are to satisfy all project requirements in a cost-efficient manner, and to continuously seek ways to improve the quality of a product. Quality programs include the use of Quality Control and Quality Assurance. Refer to the National Policy on the Quality of Highways on this page.

Quality Control refers to those actions, procedures, and methods that should be routinely employed at the project level, usually within the technical disciplines of the contractor and under the jurisdiction of the project superintendent to produce the desired result of quality in the final product.

Quality Assurance refers to those actions, procedures and methods to be employed by Mn/DOT to observe and assure that each project employs prudent quality controls and produces the desired result of a quality product as required by the contract Plans and Special Provisions.

National Policy on the Quality of Highways

The National Transportation Policy charts a course for leading the United States' transportation system into the 21st century. The Nation's highway network is an essential element of our transportation infrastructure and its quality is critical to America's economic growth and its ability to compete in the world marketplace.

The United States is a world leader in providing quality highways to the customer, the highway user. To maintain this leadership role, this policy is intended to fulfill the requirements of the highway user by providing durable, smooth, safe, aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sensitive, efficient, and economical highway system, in balance with other modes of transportation.

In support of these principles, therefore, the National Policy on the Quality of Highways was implemented in 1992 and is making a continuing commitment for quality products, information, and services through:

- Proper design, construction specifications related to performance, adherence to specifications, use of quality materials, use of qualified personnel, and sufficient maintenance;
- Constant improvement of highway engineering technology by increasing emphasis on cooperative research, implementation, and technology sharing;
- Flexibility, coupled with responsibility, for designers, contractors, workers, and suppliers;

- Adequate assurances of quality achievement in planning, design, and construction by owner agencies;
- Incentives that reward achievements and innovations in providing a demonstrated level of value-added quality; and
- Cooperative development of quality management systems and specifications between Federal, State, and local agencies, academia, and industry.

The development and preservation of a high-quality system requires a close partnership between all stakeholders; therefore, the following organizations have cooperatively developed this national policy and will strive to fulfill its principles.

[American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials \(AASHTO\)](#)

[Federal Highway Administration](#)

[American Road & Transportation Builders Association](#)

[Associated General Contractors of America](#)

[American Concrete Pavement Association](#)

[National Asphalt Pavement Association](#)

[American Consulting Engineers Council](#)

[National Ready Mixed Concrete Association](#)