

Announcing DSA’s new Special Inspection Program (SIP) evaluation requirements for laboratories participating in the DSA Laboratory Evaluation and Acceptance (LEA) Program

In collaboration with the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) resource, the Division of the State Architect (DSA) has developed a comprehensive on-site evaluation program to enhance the effectiveness of the current DSA Laboratory Evaluation and Acceptance (LEA) Program. Effective July 1, 2024, the SIP evaluation is required for all laboratories seeking to demonstrate or maintain conformance with DSA’s LEA Program requirements.

Evaluation Scope

- The following Special Inspection (SI) and Structural Testing (ST) disciplines are subject to the SIP evaluation requirements (see Table 1).

TABLE 1 (Special Inspection Program Scope)	
Discipline	Discipline
<i>Soil and Earthwork (SI)</i>	<i>Post-Installed Anchors (SI)</i>
<i>Batch Plant (SI)</i>	<i>Post-Installed Anchors (ST)</i>
<i>Reinforced Concrete (SI)</i>	<i>Structural Welding (SI)</i>
<i>Prestressed Concrete (SI)</i>	<i>High-Strength Bolting (SI)</i>
<i>Shotcrete (SI)</i>	<i>Nondestructive Testing (ST)</i>
<i>Structural Masonry (SI)</i>	<i>Sprayed Fire-Resistant Materials (SI)</i>

- The SIP evaluation will include all SI and ST disciplines for which the laboratory is seeking DSA LEA acceptance from Table 1 above. Laboratory related structural test disciplines are not included in the scope of the DSA Special Inspection Program.

Evaluation Criteria

The SIP evaluation criteria is based on requirements specified in the following:

- The 2022 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24:
 - Part 1 (California Administrative Code).
 - Part 2 (California Building Code).
- DSA Interpretation of Regulations (IR) located on DSA’s [Publications](#) webpage:
 - IR 17-1: Special Inspection Program (SIP)* provides guidance and several new technical requirements for special Inspection and structural testing laboratories.
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) E329 (Standard Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection, Testing, or Special Inspection)
- Other criteria as specified by the LEA Program.

SIP Evaluation During On-Site Assessment

- Effective July 1, 2024, all laboratories seeking DSA acceptance or currently accepted in DSA’s LEA Program that perform special inspection or structural testing for any of the disciplines listed in Table 1 are required to receive SIP evaluation. New laboratories shall begin the acceptance process by formally applying to DSA prior to receiving an on-site SIP evaluation.

- For laboratories participating in the AASHTO re:source Accreditation Program (AAP), the SIP evaluation will be conducted by AASHTO re:source personnel during the regularly scheduled AASHTO re:source on-site assessment visit. Please refer to the [AASHTO re:source](#) webpage for additional information on the SIP evaluation process.
 - Laboratories must approve DSA to access the lab's AASHTO re:source assessment reports via the AASHTO re:source specifier tool.
- For laboratories that do not receive AASHTO re:source on-site assessments, a DSA representative will perform the SIP evaluation.

After the SIP Evaluation

- Following AASHTO re:source's SIP evaluation, the results of the evaluation will be included in each laboratory's final AASHTO re:source on-site assessment report.
 - Responses to the SIP evaluation are not required to be submitted to AASHTO re:source.
 - A DSA representative will review completed assessment reports and contact the laboratory within 30 days of report issuance to discuss any nonconformities requiring corrective action(s).
 - Laboratories will receive written notification from DSA detailing any required corrective action(s).
- In cases where DSA performs the SIP evaluation, DSA will provide the laboratory with a completed SIP evaluation report and discuss any nonconformities requiring corrective action(s) within 30 days of evaluation.

Nonconformities and Corrective Actions

- *Grace Period:* A grace period will be granted to laboratories receiving SIP evaluation on or after July 1, 2024, but prior to January 1, 2025. Laboratories receiving a SIP evaluation during this grace period will have 60 days or until January 1, 2025, whichever is greater, to resolve nonconformities requiring corrective action.
- Labs receiving SIP evaluation on or after January 1, 2025, are expected to resolve all nonconformities requiring corrective action within 60 days of notification by DSA.

AASHTO Accreditation and DSA Laboratory Acceptance

- The SIP evaluation does not result in formal AASHTO re:source accreditation for the disciplines listed in Table 1, however, participation in the SIP is required to meet the criteria established by DSA's LEA program.
- All decisions regarding laboratory acceptance into DSA's LEA program will be made solely by DSA.

Note: Additional guidance will be provided if necessary, during the initial implementation of this new program.

Please forward questions regarding DSA's new SIP evaluation process to Eric France, Construction Supervisor II at (916) 445-2193 or eric.france@dgs.ca.gov.