

# Vermont Agency of Transportation

## AREMA Material Declaration Guidance

### **General Purpose**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation utilizes the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association's (AREMA) Manual for Railway Engineering (MRE) as the defining specifications for railroad-related materials when improving the railroad crossings throughout the state. In the past, VTrans minimally tracked the use and compliance of AREMA materials. In an effort to better the process of monitoring these materials, a new declaration form has been created for all materials that are subject to AREMA specifications, and this guidance has been created to assist with questions that may come from adopting this new process.

Similar to the Type A, B, and D certifications that VTrans currently requires for the materials in the Vermont Standard Specifications for Construction, the AREMA declaration will require the signor to declare that the material on the form is in compliance with AREMA specifications.

The AREMA Material Declaration form also includes the Buy America Provisional Statement for AREMA materials that are subject to Buy America. If it is found that the materials used on the project were out of compliance with AREMA and/or Buy America, the AREMA declaration form assigns full responsibility to the signor.

### **Affected Pay Items**

The AREMA declaration will be required for materials that are specifically called out in the Contract Special Provisions as needing to comply with the AREMA specifications. AREMA materials will only be found in the Special Provisions and Supplemental Agreements and will typically be expressed with a 900.XXX designation.

Only one declaration form will need to be submitted for each pay item containing AREMA related materials. In other words, a single form will cover all AREMA materials associated to one pay item. All materials associated to pay items that do not reference AREMA specifications are expected to comply with the Vermont Standard Specification for Construction.

Typical AREMA materials include (*but are not limited to*) the following:

- Bonded Insulated Joints
- Compromise Joints
- Insulated Joints
- Cross Ties & Preservative Treatments
- Continuous Welded Rail
- Jointed Rail
- Rails
- Plates & Spikes
- Precast Concrete Panel Grade Crossing Surface
- Seals
- Bed Materials
- Rail-Highway Crossing Active Warning System
- Crossing Signals and Foundations
- Railroad Ballast

It is important to make sure that the Special Provision directly calls out AREMA as the defining specification for that material.

\*\*An example of a material that can be included in an AREMA pay item but does NOT fall under the AREMA Specifications (and therefore does not require an AREMA declaration) is 720 Geotextile. When called out specifically by section (720) in an AREMA Special Provision, such as Railroad Ballast, Geotextile will need a standard VTrans Type D Certification submitted in compliance with 700.02 as specified in Subsection 720 of the Vermont Standard Specification for Construction.

### **Contractor Responsibility**

When an awarded Contract includes pay items with materials that are subject to AREMA Standards and Specifications, the Contractor will be furnished with one AREMA Declaration Form for each pay item that includes AREMA materials. The AREMA Declaration Form(s) will be included with the Materials Acceptance Package for the Contract. The AREMA Declaration Form(s) are to be completed and signed by the Contractor. The purpose of the form is for the Contractor to declare that the materials supplied and installation of those materials meet AREMA Standards and Specifications.

For all non-AREMA materials included in a Special Provision, the typical Type A or D certification forms will be provided (if required). For non-AREMA materials, the Vermont Standard Specifications still apply.

### **Resident Engineer Responsibility**

When materials included in a Special Provision are outlined to comply with AREMA Specifications, the necessary AREMA forms will be incorporated into the Contract's Acceptance Package for the Contractor. These forms will require the signor to declare that the AREMA materials incorporated into the pay item comply with the most current version of the AREMA Specifications and, if applicable, also comply with Buy America.

No other certification form will be required for the AREMA materials. However, materials under the pay item that are not governed by AREMA Specifications will still need to comply to the referred sections of the Vermont Standard Specifications for Construction, including all required documentation and testing.

Please use the SiteManager Sampling Checklist and communicate with the appointed Materials Acceptance Unit (MAU) liaison to confirm records are up to date during construction.

The Resident Engineer may also request a rail specialist to assist with inspection.