

INSTRUCTIONS for 2018 BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, SK MINI-CORRELATIONS-SOILS

Please read the following Mini-correlation instructions carefully **BEFORE** you start testing!

- Testing shall be according to the “2018 BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, SK Soil Test Instructions” that are available on the CCIL website under “Proficiency Testing” **except** for AASHTO T88 Particle Size Analysis of Soils, and ASTM D698 Characteristics of Soils Using Standard Effort, as detailed below.
- Please report the Results by the date indicated in the letter from CCIL notifying you that an additional testing program, i.e. a mini-correlation, is required.
- All test results **MUST** be reported through your CCIL lab portal at <https://portal.ccil.com/>. After signing into the portal, all mini-correlation reporting forms appropriate to your lab will be accessible under the tab for Reporting forms. You will be able to enter your test results into the forms and submit to CCIL through the portal.
- **New:** Please record the mini-correlation sample identification information found on the sample labels in the “Comments” section of the reporting forms.

SAMPLES for Mini-correlation Testing

- Samples for the mini-correlation are shipped to the laboratory when the laboratory is notified a mini-correlation is required.
- **The mini-correlation samples are pre-prepared to meet the requirements of the appropriate test method and are to be tested as received.**
- Generally only one sample will be shipped for each test requiring a mini-correlation. Tests for a mini-correlation are not generally carried out in pairs.
- These samples are in a dry state and therefore no drying should be necessary. Should you find it necessary, dry them to a constant mass at no more than 60°C.

ASTM D698 Characteristics of Soils Using Standard Effort: Mini-correlation instructions for this test are in the Mini-correlation Instructions for Aggregates.

Particle Size Analysis of Soils, AASHTO T88:

Compute the specific gravity correction factor α and constant K.

DO NOT use the specific gravity values determined by your lab.

If your lab received a **2016** mini-correlation sample for AASHTO T88, use a freshly prepared dispersing agent with distilled water and **48 grams** of sodium hexametaphosphate per litre of solution and ensure the pH value of the solution is adjusted to 8 or 9. The soil samples supplied should be dispersed in the stirring apparatus for 10 minutes. Assume a value of **2.781** for the specific gravity of soil particles.

If your lab received a **2017** mini-correlation sample for AASHTO T88, use a freshly prepared dispersing agent with distilled water and **48 grams** of sodium hexametaphosphate per litre of solution and ensure the pH value of the solution is adjusted to 8 or 9. The soil samples supplied should be dispersed in the stirring apparatus for 10 minutes. Assume a value of **2.785** for the

specific gravity of soil particles.

If your lab received a **2018** mini-correlation sample for AASHTO T88, use a freshly prepared dispersing agent with distilled water and **40** grams of sodium hexametaphosphate per litre of solution and ensure the pH value of the solution is adjusted to 8 or 9. The soil samples supplied should be dispersed in the stirring apparatus for 10 minutes. Assume a value of **2.779** for the specific gravity of soil particles

Report the **Percent passing the 425 μ m, 75 μ m, 20 μ m, 5 μ m and 2 μ m sieves** to the nearest 0.1 percent.