


**TO:** All Construction Field Staff and  
Holders of Construction Memoranda

**FROM:** Margaret B. Martin, PE   
Deputy Director – Field Operations  
Office of Construction



**SUBJECT:** Turfgrass and Turfgrass Sod Establishment

**SOURCE:** Office of Environmental Design

**APPROVED BY:** Gregory D. Welker, Deputy Administrator / Chief Engineer - Operations

**CONTACT PERSON:** Kevin Wilsey, 410.545.8583

**PURPOSE:**

The attached memorandum authorizes changes to the timing, location and rates for fertilization application in conjunction with Section 705 – Turfgrass Establishment and Section 708 – Turfgrass Sod Establishment operations.

**Attachment**

cc: Greg Welker, Deputy Administrator / Chief Engineer - Operations  
Steven Marciszewski, Director, Office of Construction  
Sonal Sanghavi, Director, Office of Environmental Design  
Brian Romanowski, Chief, Design Technical Services Division, Office of Highway Development  
Joseph Vervier, Chief, Landscape Operations Division, OED  
John Krouse, LOD, OED  
Kevin Wilsey, LOD, OED

## MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mr. Gregory D. Welker  
Deputy Administration / Chief Engineer - Operations

**FROM:** Ms. Sonal Sanghavi, Director  
Office of Environmental Design

**DATE:** February 3, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Turfgrass and Turfgrass Sod Establishment

This memo is to notify you of a change to Sections 705 – Turfgrass Establishment and 708 – Turfgrass Sod Establishment of the July 2008 SHA Standard Specifications for Construction and Materials. Special Provisions Inserts for these Sections are currently under development for future projects.

In light of recent changes to the Maryland Nutrient Management Law, seeding/sodding seasons, fertilizer application rates, and application restrictions shall be amended:

- Fertilizer may not be applied before March 1<sup>st</sup> or after November 15<sup>th</sup> or when the ground is frozen. Fertilizer may be applied between March 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Fertilizer may not be applied within 15 feet of any existing ponds (manmade or natural), lakes, rivers, or streams. This setback may be reduced to 10 feet when a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector, or targeted spray liquid is used for fertilizer application. Fertilizer may be applied in and adjacent to drainage structures, including stormwater facilities, ditches, swales, and culverts as MDE does not consider these regulated Waters of the State unless designated as a jurisdictional resource.
- Fertilizer application rates in Section 705 - Turfgrass Establishment and Section 708 – Turfgrass Sod Establishment shall be reduced to a standard rate of 200 lb per acre in all areas where Turfgrass Establishment and Turfgrass Sod Establishment operations are to be performed.

The reason for the change is that the new fertilizer law restricts the timing and location of fertilizer applications and the amount of nitrogen that can be applied during a single fertilizer application for these operations.

Sections 705 and 708 currently allow operations to occur between March 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> and require that 20-16-12 (83% UF with MAP & SOP) fertilizer be applied at a default rate of 1000 lb per acre (or as directed by the nutrient management plan). The reduced fertilizer rate will provide adequate nutrients to achieve initial establishment and soil stabilization in these areas, but areas will be monitored for follow-up fertilizer needs. Future projects will require a SPI that directs the contractor to make multiple fertilizer applications during the turfgrass establishment phase.

If agreeable, a draft memorandum to construction personnel for current projects is attached and we will develop a Special Provisions Insert for future SHA projects.

If you require more information, please contact Kevin Wilsey at (410) 545-8583.

Concur

Gregory D. Welker  
Deputy Administrator / Chief Engineer - Operations

3/25/14  
Date

cc: John Krouse

Brian Romanowski

Joseph Vervier

Kevin Wilsey