

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE (TTI) MOBILE RETROREFLECTIVITY VERIFICATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORTS

SP 666-007 requires minimum retroreflectivity for pavement markings on all projects totaling more than 20,000 ft. of pavement markings. Retroreflectivity is either collected and submitted by the pavement marking contractor or a subcontractor in accordance with Special Specification 6291, Mobile Retroreflectivity Data Collection for Pavement Markings; and both the mobile retroreflectometer and the operators must be certified by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) Mobile Retroreflectometer Certification Program. Additionally, TxDOT has implemented an owner verification program with TTI to remain in compliance with Federal requirements concerning contractor-supplied acceptance data. Under this verification program, TTI is tasked to conduct owner verification of retroreflectivity data for a minimum of 10% of Item 666 projects within a calendar year, with a goal of verifying 15% of projects within a calendar year.

The Materials and Tests Division (MTD) provides oversight of the TTI owner verification program and acts as the official referee in instances where there is a dispute either with the data verification or with the acceptance of the retroreflectivity data. The verification program insures that the contractors who are taking mobile retroreflectivity measurements on TxDOT pavement marking contracts are providing valid data. A list of currently certified mobile retroreflectivity providers is listed on TTI's website (see below) in addition to other information about the program.

<https://groups.tti.tamu.edu/visibility/programs-and-guidance/mobile-retro-certification/>

As part of MTD's oversight of the verification program, TTI must submit annual reports summarizing the work that was done during the year. The annual reports provide updates on a variety of topics related to the program and summarize the verification test results for that year. Please note that there are a lot of factors which can affect the mobile retroreflectivity readings and verification results which are not controlled by the mobile unit operators. These include the type of roadway, geometry of the roadway, condition of the roadway, amount of moisture on the roadway, and amount of time between the provider's measurements and TTI's verification measurements. For these reasons, the verification results serve as a general guideline to help identify areas in the program which require attention and areas for improvement. It should be noted that when a specific provider's results fall outside the acceptable agreement range with TTI's results, TTI conducts further investigations to insure that some of the extenuating circumstances listed above did not affect the readings.