



The Geosynthetic Materials Association (GMA) supports the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP) geotextile testing and manufacturer's audit program. GMA encourages state department of transportations' to incorporate the features of this program into their geotextile selection and testing processes.

This program was developed to eliminate duplicative testing that could have been done by the state DOTs. Approved in March 2012, the program is in its initial implementation with the first rounds of prime manufacturers audits continuing and private label marketing companies audits being scheduled. Its expansion now includes the QA/QC audits of geotextile manufacturers, private label marketing companies and the requirement that manufactures print marks identifying the prime manufacturer of the geotextiles.

Geotextiles that meet the testing and auditing requirements are listed on the NTPEP website. State DOTs can check the list to make sure that the geotextiles they are considering for their projects meet specifications.

Using the AASHTO Specification M-288 in conjunction with the NTPEP geotextile and geogrid testing and manufacturer audit program allows state to eliminate the costs of testing in their own labs or sending materials to outside vendors for testing. It also eliminates the need for the states to audit vendors QA/QC process and potentially reduce the requirements for paper certifications. States can rely on the work that has already been done at AASHTO. GMA welcomed a national program to circumvent having a hodgepodge of individual state programs. GMA worked with NTPEP to develop the geotextile printing and labeling that would resolve the DOTs' concerns about tracing materials to the prime manufactures and also a more efficient way of determining if the geotextiles meet the specs for DOT projects.

The additions to NTPEP program brings assurance that the geosynthetics used by regulatory agencies are produced and tested to high quality standards. The new printing and labeling standards provide assurance to the regulators and end users that the products that are specified are indeed the products that will be shipped to and installed at the project site.

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