

## **Changes to Flagger (F) and Flagger Instructor Training (FIT) Programs**

This email documents changes to the ATSSA F and FIT programs. These changes are effective immediately.

### **Existing Programs**

Currently, both the F and FIT programs are generic in nature. They are based on Section 6E of the 2003 MUTCD. State differences are handled through Appendix A in the Flagger Workbook, which lists specific state requirements. Instructors teach the generic course and direct students to Appendix A and their respective DOTs for their state requirements. Students receive a generic Flagger Workbook, Flagger Handbook and Part 6 of the MUTCD as their course materials.

Although this approach works well, five states are requiring ATSSA to teach State-specific courses if we wish to continue teaching in those states. Some states have dictated the exam questions and format. Some states even require a State-specific flagger card. The following five states are requiring ATSSA to teach a State-specific F course:

- California
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- Utah

Other states may follow their lead and may have similar requests in the future, so we need to devise a program format that would allow us to make these changes as needed while minimizing expenses and the need for State-specific printed materials.

### **Changes to Address this Situation**

#### **Flagger Program:**

##### **Generic**

Except for the five states listed above, there will be no changes to the Flagger program other than the content of the flagger kit and the Flagger Handbook. The flagger kit will no longer include Part 6 of the MUTCD. Instead, section 6E of the MUTCD has been included, in its entirety, within a revised Flagger Handbook.

- Exam: The exam will continue to be 25 multiple choice questions, plus the flagger demonstration. (70% passing grade)
- Flagger Workbook. (NOTE: Appendix A has been expanded to include information pertinent to the 5 states mentioned above. It now also indicated which states have adopted the MUTCD, which ones have a State-specific manual and which ones have a supplement.)
- Flagger Handbook

- Generic Flagger card

For the five states in question, the flagger class has to be taught based on the state's flagging requirements and not on the MUTCD. The video will not be State-specific so instructors will have to explain the differences and teach accordingly so students can pass the exam, which will be State-specific. It was decided to include the generic Flagger Handbook for the five states so students walk away with a field reference.

### California

- Exam: 20 questions (some T/F, some multiple choice), dictated by Caltrans, plus the flagger demonstration. 70% passing grade.
- Generic Flagger Workbook
- Generic Flagger Handbook
- Caltrans "Flagging Instruction Handbook"
- Handout: Section 6E of the California MUTCD
- Generic Flagger card

### Massachusetts

(NOTE: Massachusetts now allows flaggers. In the past, police handled all flagging operations. This is a new program for them)

- Exam: Fifty (50) question exam, plus the flagger demonstration. The first 25 are the 25 questions from the ATSSA generic flagger exam. The other 25 are T/F and are dictated by MassHighway. 70% passing grade.
- Generic Flagger Workbook
- Generic Flagger Handbook
- MassHighway's "Work Zone Safety Guidelines for Massachusetts Municipalities and Contractors"
- Mass-specific Flagger Card (2 sided, with specific fonts and wording)

### Maryland

- Exam: 25 multiple choice questions dictated by MD SHA, plus the flagger demonstration. Some of these questions are from an old ATSSA flagger exam. Others are specific to MD. 70% passing grade.
- Generic Flagger Workbook
- Generic Flagger Handbook
- Generic Flagger card

### North Carolina

- Exam: 35 multiple choice questions (several are T/F) dictated by NCDOT. Some of these questions were taken from the generic ATSSA exam. 70% passing grade.
- Generic Flagger Workbook
- Generic Flagger Handbook
- Generic Flagger card

### Utah

- Exam: 20 questions dictated by UDOT, plus the flagger demonstration. The first 10 are multiple choice, the last 10 are T/F. 70% passing grade.
- Generic Flagger Workbook
- Generic Flagger Handbook
- UDOT's "Flagger Training Handbook"
- Utah-specific Flagger Card

Exam keys for all state-specific exams have been developed.

(NOTE ABOUT RECIPROCITY: This is an unresolved matter. Some states may accept a State-specific flagger card (from MA or UT) but this is up to the particular state. The generic ATSSA flagger card WILL NOT be accepted in MA or UT. Only their cards will be accepted)

### **Flagger Instructor Training (FIT) Program:**

The FIT program will be affected as a result of these changes, particularly when taught in one of the five states mentioned above. The existing FIT course uses a 50 question exam composed of the 25 multiple choice questions from the generic flagger exam PLUS 25 questions pertaining to training skills.

### Generic

- Exam: Because five states have state-specific exams, the FIT generic exam had to be changed. The questions are the same but they will be given two separate exams: 1) 25 multiple choice training skills questions and 2) the ATSSA generic Flagger exam, plus the demonstration portion. Passing grade is 70%.
- ATSSA Flagger Instructor Guide
- ATSSA Training Skills. This document has been modified by including the miscellaneous forms that used to be handed out separately (Flagger Information Pack). These forms are now part of the booklet for instructors to copy as needed.
- Generic Flagger Video
- Flagger Handbook (Part 6 will no longer be provided)

For the five states

For the five states mentioned above the composition of the exam had to be changed. In these states, the FIT students will take the following:

1. The FIT exam. 25 multiple choice training skills questions
2. The exam for that state
3. The demonstration portion

Passing grade is 70%. The grade will be determined by averaging the two exams. The

This is a new procedure that we are sure is not perfect. As we implement these changes, if you find any errors, omissions or items that we forgot to consider. Please let us know so we can improve.

Thank you.