

**IHQ OF MoD (ARMY)**  
**QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH**  
**(ADDL DTE GEN TECH EXAM)**

**ADVISORY**  
**TESTING OF BUILDING MATERIALS AT NABL LABORATORIES**

1. As per standard Contract Conditions, testing of various materials is to be carried out in Site lab/National Test House/SEMT/Govt approved lab/Govt. Engg college etc. depending upon the level of tests. It has been obs that the site lab is neither properly established nor fully equipped and is without the requisite technical staff in most of the cases. The tests got done from local Govt Engg Colleges also lack authenticity in many cases as there have been instances of production of test reports without following the correct procedure of that institute.
2. Various categories of tests in the field of engineering are as enumerated below:-
  - (a) Geotechnical testing
  - (b) Testing of building materials
  - (c) Structural/strength tests
  - (d) Metallurgical tests
  - (e) Testing mechanical properties of materials like steel etc.,
  - (f) Non destructive tests
  - (g) Electrical tests
  - (h) Geophysical and sounding tests etc.
3. Each State Govt has different set of rules/methodology/policy for according approval to the laboratories and it is not clear for which category the lab has approval from government. Policy guidelines are also not clear that the labs should have specific approval for each category of testing. Further, contractors are selecting laboratories of their choice and Engineers-in-charge are forwarding samples through contractors to their choice laboratory which is completely defeating the purpose of independent testing. It is noticed during inspection that materials are being sent for testing to the laboratories in north India when work is being executed in south India despite the fact that all the testing facilities are locally available. There is, therefore, an urgent need to relook into this imp aspect vital for quality control.
4. It is, therefore, advised to incorporate suitable provision in the Special Condition for testing of materials that tests (other than those which are to be carried out in site lab only) shall be mandatorily carried out from NABL accredited labs only.

  
(Pravir Mishra)  
Col  
Dir TE  
For ADGTE

**E-in-C's Br (E8)**

**Copy to:-**

1. SO to QMG
2. TS to E-in-C
3. TS to DGW
4. All STEs
5. Automation cell (E-in-C's Br)

- You are requested to upload the above letter on MES website under the ADGTE link.