

**INDEPENDENT TESTING LABORATORIES QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS TO
PERFORM TESTING ON REINFORCEMENT SPLICES FOR THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Caltrans)**

- I. Independent testing laboratories seeking approval to perform sample testing on reinforcing steel splices shall provide brochures, approved shop drawings, and any other technical documentation that proves that the laboratory has the following:
 - A. Proper facilities, including a tensile testing machine capable of breaking the largest size of reinforcing bar (bar diameter) to be tested. **Include actual test results for all bar sizes.**
 - B. A device for measuring the total slip of the reinforcing bars across the splice to the nearest 0.001-inch, that, when placed parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bar is able to simultaneously measure movement across the splice at 2 locations 180 degrees apart.
 - C. Current training records/certification for operators that have received formal training to perform ASTM and California Test Methods listed in "E" below.
 - D. Records of annual calibration of testing equipment (**UTM, calipers, slip measuring device components**). The calibration must be performed by an independent third party that has:
 1. Testing standards that are traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and
 2. A formal reporting procedure for test results, including published test forms.
 - E. Current accreditation by a nationally recognized accreditation agency certifying compliance with ISO 17025 for testing laboratories and Scope of Accreditation for the following test methods:
 1. California Test 670: Method of Tests for Mechanical and Welded Reinforcing Steel Splices.
 2. ASTM A 1034: Standard Test Method for Testing Mechanical Splices for Steel Reinforcing Bars.
 3. ASTM A 970: Standard Specification for Headed Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement.
 4. ASTM A 370: Standard Test methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products.
- II. Caltrans will
 - A. Ensure that the Independent Testing Laboratory submits all the required documentation.
 - B. Review the submitted documentation.
 - C. Upon evaluation of results from I.A to I.E above, issue either an acceptance letter or rejection letter to the applying Independent Testing Laboratory.
 - D. Add the Independent Testing Laboratory to the Pre-qualified list, if accepted.
 - E. Remove the Independent Testing Laboratory from the Pre-qualified list if it fails to renew accreditation per the requirements of the Independent Accreditation Agency.
 - F. If the Independent Testing Laboratory is not yet accredited, issue a waiver for up to one year for accreditation to be obtained.

For more information, you may contact the Structural Materials Testing Branch at (916) 227-7253.