

17-Jul-2008

ABF-CAL-LTR-000595

Mr. Gary Pursell
Resident Engineer
California Department of Transportation
333 Burma Road,
Oakland, CA 94607, USA

PROJECT: San Francisco Oakland Bay SAS Bridge Superstructure
Caltrans Contract No. 04-0120F4
ABF Job No. 660110

SUBJECT: Request for Change Order (RFCO) No. 33
Quality Assurance Testing of Externally Threaded Fasteners

Gentlemen:

American Bridge/Fluor Enterprises, Inc., Joint Venture (ABFJV) is in receipt of Department Letter No. 05.03.01-002360 dated July 14, 2008 regarding the Quality Assurance (QA) testing regimen of externally threaded fasteners, nuts and washers (fastener assemblies). The Department states that "Contractor was reminded at these meetings (June 2007) that QA testing of fastener assemblies will be performed pursuant to Standard Specification Section 6-1.01, 'Source of Supply and Quality of Materials', and that the sample quantity, per heat, will be in accordance with Contract Special Provisions Section 10-1.59, 'Steel Structures,' subsection 'Bolted Connections'..."

In the June, 2007 meeting referenced in the letter, when the Department introduced its intentions regarding the testing of the Cable fastener assemblies, citing the identical Contract provisions provided in the first paragraph of this letter, ABFJV was quite adamant that the QA requirements described, are not required by the Contract Documents. At that time, the Department agreed to provide additional Contract information in support of its position. Although, over one year has passed since this meeting, the Department has not provided any additional information supporting its position.

The Department's letter is confusing. It asserts "The spreadsheet attached to this letter titled 'QA Sampling - Cable System/E2 Bearing and Keys', modifies the sample size provided above for some of the Cable System and E2 Bearing and Shear Key fastener assemblies". However, the "Bolt Sampling Size" chart provided by the Department pertains only to high strength fasteners (A325 and A490 bolts). None of the bolts on the spreadsheet are high strength fasteners. Rather they are defined in Special Provisions Section 10-1.47, "Spherical Bushing Bearing (E2)", Section 10.1.50, "Shear Key (Pier E2)", Section 10-1.59, "Steel Structures" and Section 10-1.60 "Cable System" as bolts and rods of different grades and classifications. ABFJV notes that the Standard Specifications and the Special Provisions make a clear distinction between high strength fasteners and other types of bolts and rods. For this reason, ABFJV is unable to determine which Cable System and E2 Bearing and Shear Key fastener assembly sample sizes, indicated in the "Bolt Sampling Size" chart, provided by the Department on page one of the letter have been modified. The Department is requested to identify the referenced changes.

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Contract Special Provisions Section 10-1.60 "Cable System", subsection "Cable Band Bolts" provides "*Cable band bolts shall conform to the requirements of ASTM Designation: A354, Grade BC... Tensile tests to failure on cable band bolts with nuts shall be performed on a minimum of 30 bolts, but not less than 6 per heat. If one bolt fails to meet the required strength two more bolts from the heat shall be tested. If both bolts meet the specified requirements, the heat will be accepted. If any two bolts from one heat fail to meet the requirements, the heat will be rejected.*" Additional samples are required for tension tests to obtain load extension curves. Contract Special Provisions Section 10-1.60 "Cable System", subsection "Anchor Rods" provides "*Anchor rods shall conform to the requirements of ASTM Designation: A 354, Grade BC or BD and as specified in these special provisions.*" Similar provisions to Anchor Rods are stated in the other Special Provision Sections referenced above.

The testing requirements in the Special Provisions conflict with Standard Specification Section 6-1.01, "Source of Supply and Quality of Materials", bullet four, which provides in pertinent part, "*Materials to be used in the work will be subject to inspection and tests by the Engineer or the Engineer's designated representative. The Contractor shall furnish without charge such samples as may be required.*" The specific testing requirements set forth in Special Provisions Section 10-1.60 "Cable System", which pertain to the cable band bolts, and the number of samples of high strength fasteners, set forth in Special Provisions Section 10-1.59, "Steel Structures", clarifies the quantity of samples the Contractor must test or provide to the Department for testing. These specific requirements take precedence over the general statement provided in the Standard Specification Section 6-1.01, "Source of Supply and Quality of Materials".

The Department's direction to ABFJV to provide additional "Finished Items" for Quality Assurance Testing in accordance with Standard Specification Section 6 1.01, is Extra Work.

Pursuant to the Contract Documents, including Standard Specifications, and Special Provisions including Standard Specification Section 5-1.04, Coordination and Interpretation of Plans, Standard Specifications, Section 4-1.03C, Changes in Character of the Work, and Standard Specification Section 4-1.03D, Extra Work, ABFJV hereby notifies the Department that a Contract Change Order is required, adjusting the Contract Compensation.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN BRIDGE/FLUOR ENTERPRISES, INC. A JOINT VENTURE


Michael Flowers
Project Director
MF/PW/rt

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