

Sampling Procedure to Determine Lead Content of Bridge Paint

Number of samples to collect

Assuming the bridge or structure has a uniform paint coating(s) over entire structure, the following number of samples should be collected:

- Girder Bridge - a minimum of one paint sample collected from a girder.
- Truss Bridge – a minimum of one paint sample collected from a truss and one from a girder. Truss and girder samples should be analyzed separately.

If portions of the bridge have been repainted so that the entire structure does not have a uniform paint coating, a minimum of one sample must be collected from each different coating system and analyzed separately.

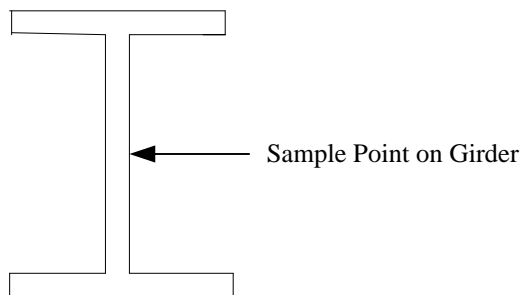
Sampling Equipment

- Paint scraper*
- Sealable plastic bags (zip lock)
- Permanent ink pen
- Clean, unused paper towel

*Use a new paint scraper for collecting samples from the structure. This technique reduces the risk of transferring lead contamination from one project to another.

Sample Collection

- Using a permanent ink pen, label the plastic bag(s) with the following information:
 1. Name or number of bridge
 2. Name of Sampler
 3. Name of Project Engineer
 4. District
 5. Date of sample collection
 6. Unique number for each bag. Example: 1, 2, 3...
- Paint scraper should be new or wiped with a clean, unused paper towel between every sample collected.
- Sample should be taken on girder at mid-height of wide flange beam (see diagram below).



Cross Section of Wide Flange Beam

- Truss sample should be collected from flat surface area.

- Scrape down to bare metal. Carefully capture all paint chips in plastic bag while scraping.
- Scrape until a minimum of five grams (approximately ¼ cup) of sample has been collected.
- When sampling has been completed, use pen to label area on structure adjacent to sampling point with the same unique sample number and date placed on sampling bag.
- Submit samples to Dave Iverson, Office of Materials and Road Research, MS 645 for analysis. Samples can also be taken to a Minnesota Department of Health certified lab.