

Maintenance Memorandum

Date: March 29, 2002

Subject: Calibration of Salt Trucks

It has been MDOT's policy to require yearly calibration of each salting unit (MDOT, local or contract agencies). The reason for this policy is to help achieve the Department's goal of reduced salt usage.

It has come to the Department's attention that some salt trucks equipped with ground speed control may not need to be calibrated each year.

To include these changes, the new policy will read as follows:

1. Before the beginning of each snow fighting season, salt trucks must be calibrated to ensure salt distribution that falls within Department guidelines. The calibration should be rechecked if there are any mechanical adjustments or changes throughout the remainder of the snow fighting season.
 - 1a. Closed loop ground speed control units need to be calibrated only every five years unless a major change has been made to the system. Examples of a major change to the system might include, using a different hopper box or a major component failure. (Examples of closed loop systems are Dickey John DJC 2000 and Dickey John Control Point).
 - 1b. Open loop ground speed control units must be calibrated each year and rechecked if there are any mechanical adjustments or changes throughout the remainder of the snow fighting season. (An example of an open loop system is the Muncie Power Master).

Please check with the manufacturer to ensure which type of system you are using. If no determination can be made, the system must be calibrated each year. (A video and workbook are available to walk personnel through the calibration procedure.)

2. If the truck is not equipped with ground speed control the calibration chart will be located in the truck so that it is convenient to the driver.
3. The tailgate of the vehicle must be marked, or the gate locked or bolted down so that it can be returned to, or kept at, the calibration location during salt distribution.

This change was endorsed by the Engineering Operations Committee at its March 12, 2002 meeting. Please be sure that this information is distributed to your respective maintenance agencies. If you have any questions about this change in policy please contact Bard Lower by phone at 517-322-3332 or by e-mail at lowerb.

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(Signature on file)