

Flagger Program Questions and Answers

(updated: 2/14/11)

1. Q. How do I file an application to provide Flagger services for the new program?

A. The process for obtaining Certification Approval for training Flaggers to perform work in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is outlined in the link on this website titled Flagger Certification Program.

2. Q. Where do I find an application to perform work as a Flagger or Flagger Trainer for the new Program?

A. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (“MassDOT”) is not currently anticipating adding new staff to the current work force to perform flagging operations. As such, there is no application available for work under this Program. The construction industry will likely train staff to perform Flagger functions in compliance with the information under the Flagger Certification Program link on this website. Flagging services companies may also be established that will be hiring roadway Flaggers to perform work on construction projects.

3. Q. How do I become trained to be a Flagger in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

A. MassDOT will only be training in-house staff to perform these functions on its projects. Contractors and private companies, after obtaining Flagger Certification Program Approval from MassDOT, will post hiring opportunities in various media outlets.

4. Q. Are there specific requirements for dress and equipment that flagging companies and Contractors must provide to be able to use Flaggers?

A. Yes. These are outlined in the Flagger Certification Program link on this website.

5. Q. Where can I find out more information on this Program?

A. As new information becomes available on this Program it will be posted on this website under the Flagger Question and Answer webpage, or the Approved Flagger Certification Entity webpage.

6. Q. What is the pay rate for a Flagger in the Commonwealth?

A. Pay rates depend upon the agency and the method of procurement for the services in question. If an agency has a sufficient amount of certified Flaggers, then it may utilize those individuals for both its routine maintenance and construction contracts. If a project

is advertised and awarded within the Commonwealth, and payments are made through the contract, then the prevailing wage rate applies. (See M.G.L. ch. 149, § 26).

7. Q. Is a company that provides Flagger services (after Program Certification) obligated to pay prevailing wage rates if they are performing work in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

A. Yes. Prevailing wage rates are applicable for all work that is reimbursed under a contract through a Commonwealth entity.

8. Q. Where can I find copies of the Guidelines and samples of Construction Zone Safety Plans?

A. These can be found on the Road Flagger and Police Detail Guidelines link on this website.

9. Q. When is a Construction Zone Safety Plan (“CZSP”) required?

A. Pursuant to 701 CMR 7.04(1), Awarding Authorities must complete a CZSP for all work in the public road requiring the preparation of a Design Plan. Therefore, public works projects that include detailed plans and specifications for how the project is to be constructed will require a CZSP. Standard CZSPs may be used for projects not requiring specific design plans, for routine maintenance work, and for emergency work.

10. Q. Are there different types of CZSPs?

A. Yes. For routine maintenance, emergency work, and other standard work, Awarding Authorities may use standard traffic management plans or CZSPs. For projects requiring a full design plan, Awarding Authorities must develop a custom CZSP to be included in the bid documents.

11. Q. When must an Awarding Authority consult with law enforcement?

A. For projects that require a CZSP, Awarding Authorities must consult with law enforcement as early as practical. For projects requiring a custom CZSP, the Awarding Authority must organize a Pre-Construction Conference with the appropriate law enforcement agency. If the project involves routine maintenance or minor work, or otherwise does not require a CZSP, then the pre-construction conference need not be in person.

12. Q. When must an Awarding Authority contact law enforcement?

A. Whenever an Awarding Authority is performing work on a Public Road that does not involve the use of Police Details, then the Awarding Authority must notify the appropriate law enforcement agency, and provide contact information prior to the start of work each day.

