

## The QPL -- How does it work?

Vendors continuously offer new products – how do ODOT employees decide what to use and what doesn't work? When the salesman comes to your door, don't buy until you check the QPL!

Products approved for use in Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) projects can be found on the Qualified Products List (QPL). But how do items get on the list? How are they classified as Conditional Use versus Qualified?

ODOT's Product Evaluation Committee reviews hundreds of products for inclusion on the QPL. Mike Dunning, Product Evaluation Coordinator, chairs the committee. The committee consists of a representative group from many highway construction specialties around the state.

### Equal or New

Product evaluation requests fall into two classes; "Equal" or "New". New Products are not addressed by current specifications or standards, and require further review by other sections. Equal Products are similar to those currently used by ODOT and covered by existing specifications or standards.

### New Product Submittals

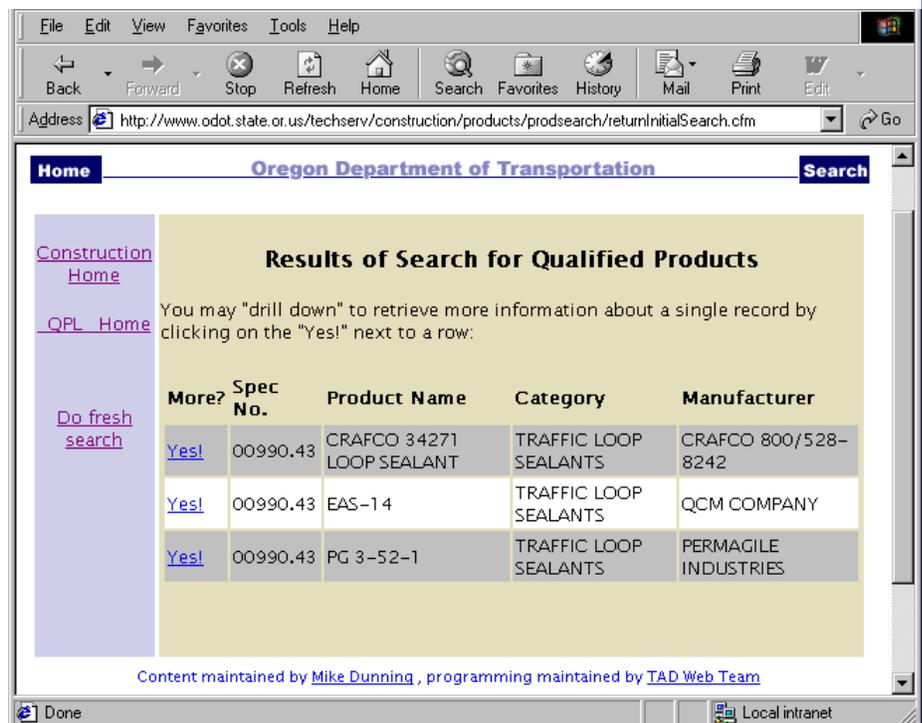
All vendors submit a "Preliminary Information for Product Evaluation" form with

the exact product name and categories for which the product is being submitted for use. There are guidelines for 120 product categories.

The manufacturer or supplier must provide independent laboratory test results addressing all existing specifications. Failure to comply results in rejection of the product.

### Qualified or Conditional Use

When a vendor submits an "Equal" product, the application and test information is forwarded to the committee members, or other ODOT expert best qualified to do the review. Their



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing: <http://www.odot.state.or.us/techserv/construction/products/prodsearch/returnInitialSearch.cfm>. The page title is "Oregon Department of Transportation" and the main heading is "Results of Search for Qualified Products". Below the heading, there is a table with the following data:

More?	Spec No.	Product Name	Category	Manufacturer
<a href="#">Yes!</a>	00990.43	CRAFCO 34271 LOOP SEALANT	TRAFFIC LOOP SEALANTS	CRAFCO 800/528-8242
<a href="#">Yes!</a>	00990.43	EAS-14	TRAFFIC LOOP SEALANTS	QCM COMPANY
<a href="#">Yes!</a>	00990.43	PG 3-52-1	TRAFFIC LOOP SEALANTS	PERMAGILE INDUSTRIES

At the bottom of the page, it says: "Content maintained by Mike Dunning, programming maintained by TAD Web Team".

A sample search for "traffic loop sealants" on the Intranet.

recommendation is brought to the full Product Evaluation Committee, who determines if the product is “Qualified”, “Conditionally Approved”, or “Rejected”.

Some products have a sufficient history or testing basis, or their use is a low enough risk that the product can be placed directly on the QPL. Other products that look promising are put on the Conditional Use List.

Products installed on a conditional basis are tracked and monitored for 6 months to a year to see if they perform well. If they meet our expectations, they can be brought back to the full Product Evaluation Committee for possible inclusion on the QPL. Products on the QPL or Conditional lists may be reviewed at any time, and if they are not meeting our expectations they can be rejected at any time.

Some new products can be tested using the Experimental Features program. This program tests new products, methods or materials on Federal-Aid construction projects. The

performance of the feature must be evaluated and reported. For more information on Experimental Features, contact Kevin Haas of the Research Group, at 503-986-2848.

### **Products for Construction Projects: Approved or Qualified**

For Construction Projects, there are two levels of acceptance documentation required of products on the QPL. A product that is on the Approved List needs little or no further documentation, and a product that is on the Qualified List will need some additional testing or certification. We are working toward a true QPL that has no additional testing requirements, but there is more work needed in this area.

Search routines are available on the ODOT Internet at: <http://www.odot.state.or.us/tsconstruction/>. Downloadable lists and forms and links to other sites are available at: <http://www.odot.state.or.us/tsconstruction/qplhome>

*For more information, contact Mike Dunning, Product Evaluation Coordinator,  
at 503-986-3059, or via e-mail at [mike.d.dunning@odot.state.or.us](mailto:mike.d.dunning@odot.state.or.us)*



**Oregon Department of Transportation**

**Research Group  
200 Hawthorne Ave. SE, Suite B-240  
Salem, OR 97301-5192**

**Telephone: 503-986-2700  
FAX: 503-986-2844**

***For more information on ODOT's Research Program and Projects,  
check the website at***

**<http://www.odot.state.or.us/tddresearch/>**