

The Program requires that suppliers follow an approved quality control plan, provide for weekly testing of asphalt, submit split samples for testing and monthly test results to the Office of Flexible Pavement Management, and have a contingency plan for material that is not within specifications. The quality assurance test results are used to assess a supplier's continuing performance as an "Approved Supplier."

At the start of a construction project or when the mix design is submitted, the resident engineer determines whether the paving contractor is using an asphalt supplier from the "Approved Suppliers" list. There is one set of responsibilities for the resident engineer when the supplier is on the "Approved Suppliers" list and another set when they are not on the list.

Approved Supplier

When the asphalt supplier is on the "Approved Suppliers" list, the resident engineer, field engineer, or plant inspector confirms that each shipment of asphalt is accompanied by the original certificate of compliance (and a copy) that complies with *Standard Specifications* Section 6-1.07. Additionally, Section O, "Requirements for Shipping Binders by an Approved Supplier," of the Program requires that the certificate include:

- a. The name and location of the supplier.
- b. The grade of the asphalt.
- c. The date and time of the shipment.
- d. A statement confirming that the transport vehicle was checked before loading and was found acceptable for the asphalt shipped.
- e. This certification wording:

" (Supplier name) hereby certifies that the asphalt product accompanying this certification was produced in accordance with the California Department of Transportation's Certification Program for Suppliers of Asphalt and that this product complies in all respects with the requirements of the applicable specifications for the asphalt product identified on this document.

I hereby certify by my signature that I have the authority to represent the supplier providing the accompanying asphalt product."

- f. The signature of a person authorized to represent the supplier.

A certificate of compliance that is altered after the supplier's authorized representative signs it will not be accepted, although notations such as the project number and the contractor name may be added.

Each asphalt delivery is required to be accompanied by the supplier's loading and shipping log that contains:

- a. The asphalt grade and quantity.
- b. The name of the purchaser.
- c. The contract or project number (if known).
- d. The date and time of transportation vehicle inspection and shipment.
- e. The number of the Bill of Lading issued.
- f. The supplier's shipping source (that is tank, blender, truck, or other).

Not an Approved Supplier

When the asphalt supplier is not on the "Approved Suppliers" list, the resident engineer must inform the contractor of the lack of approval and that materials from this supplier will not be accepted unless certification program requirements are met. If the contractor insists on using a supplier not on the "Approved Supplier" list, direct the contractor to submit a written request that meets the requirements of Section J, "Requirements for Suppliers Supplying Asphalt Without a Certificate of Compliance," of the Program. Asphalt will not be used on the project until all requirements detailed in the Program have been met.

The contractor's written request must include:

- a. The supplier's name.
- b. The type and grade of asphalt.
- c. The type of facility (refinery, terminal in-line blending, hot mix asphalt plant, or other).
- d. The location of the facility.
- e. The name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person(s) responsible for quality control at the facility.
- f. An e-mail address where the supplier will receive notices and communications from Caltrans.
- g. The name, location, and certification of all AASHTO accredited laboratories designated for testing and the specific types of tests they will be performing.

The resident engineer forwards the request to the Office of Flexible Pavement Materials and instructs the contractor to provide initial test results that have been processed by an AASHTO accredited laboratory, and split asphalt samples for verification to the Office of Flexible Pavement Materials as specified in the Program. The Office of Flexible Pavement Materials performs the required tests on the split samples and provides the results to the resident engineer. If the Office of Flexible Pavement Materials' tests verify that the supplier's tests and the proposed supplier meet the other requirements of the Program, the resident engineer may approve the asphalt for use on the project.

Once asphalt concrete production begins, the contractor must perform sampling and testing at regular intervals to control quality. Test results and split samples of these regular samplings should be received by the resident engineer within 24 hours of the sampling of unmodified asphalt and within 48 hours of the sampling of modified asphalt. Ship the split samples to the Office of Flexible Pavement Materials for verification testing.

The asphalt is considered to be in specification if the combined average of the supplier's and Caltrans' tests is in specification even if individually they meet verification criteria but either one is out of specification. When the combined average is not in specification, the asphalt is considered out of compliance. A supplier may challenge the out of compliance determination by going through the contractor to request the testing of a required third split sample by a dispute resolution laboratory. If the combined average of the tests conducted by Caltrans, the supplier and the dispute laboratory is within compliance, the asphalt is considered in compliance. Otherwise the asphalt is out of compliance and the asphalt concrete containing that asphalt is rejected.

The cost to Caltrans for verification testing is borne by the contractor and the appropriate fee deduction is made. A fee schedule is available at the website above. If dispute resolution testing is required, the contractor will bear the testing costs on non-complying asphalt while Caltrans will bear the cost when compliance is confirmed.

If you have any questions or comments about this bulletin, please contact Nahid Hosseinzadeh, Office of Flexible Pavement Materials at (916) 227-7322, or via e-mail at Nahid_Hosseinzadeh@dot.ca.gov.