



Construction Policy Bulletin

CPB 08-3 Hot Mix Asphalt Materials Acceptance

References: *Standard Specifications*

Section 39, "Asphalt Concrete"
Amended Section 39, "Hot Mix Asphalt"

Construction Manual

Section 6-109, "Materials"
Table 6-1.6, "Asphalt Concrete"
Table 6-1.6, "Hot Mix Asphalt Material Acceptance"

Effective Date: July 7, 2008

Approved:


MARK LEJA
Chief
Division of Construction

Approval Date: July 3, 2008

Background

Caltrans has recently completed major changes to its *Standard Specifications*, Section 39, "Asphalt Concrete," including renaming it to Section 39, "Hot Mix Asphalt." The updated Section 39, "Hot Mix Asphalt," is included in the special provisions of all contracts currently awarded by Caltrans.

Over the years, Caltrans has added special provisions to address necessary changes to its *Standard Specifications*, to address changes to asphalt concrete pavement design, materials qualities, production, placement, and quality evaluation. Updating Section 39 reduced the number of asphalt concrete related special provisions from 35 to 12 by incorporating them into the new section. Some of the special provisions incorporated include:

- Asphalt Concrete
- Quality Control and Quality Assurance (QC/QA) for asphalt concrete
- Rubberized Asphalt Concrete

There are 10 major changes included in the updated Section 39, "Hot Mix Asphalt." They include:

1. Three types of construction processes - Standard, Method, and QC/QA.
2. Standard and QC/QA processes, using method compaction if the total hot mix asphalt layer thickness is less than 0.15 foot.
3. Method construction process that requires tight controls for temperatures and rollers.

4. Lift thickness for Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) that must be greater than three times the nominal aggregate size of the mix.
5. Hot Mix Asphalt that must comply with all specification requirements throughout production and placement.
6. Removal or deduction for out-of-specification material is determined on a case-by-case basis.
7. Aggregate gradation compliance based on contractor target value with a plus or minus tolerance, in lieu of the existing operating range and contract compliance standard.
8. Contractor mix design, except for Open Graded Friction Course, which is designed by Caltrans.
9. Caltrans measured HMA pavement density based on one core for every 250 tons of HMA placed, if the total paved thickness is at least 0.15 foot.
10. Hot Mix Asphalt plants certified under Caltrans Materials Plant Quality Program.

Existing Procedure

Section 6-109, "Materials," and Table 6-1.6, "Asphalt Concrete," of the *Construction Manual* provides guidance for the frequency of sampling of asphalt concrete under normal conditions. When materials are well within specifications, less frequent sampling and testing may be allowed.

New Procedure

The *Construction Manual* must be updated to implement the changes in the revised and renamed Section 39, "Hot Mix Asphalt," of the *Standard Specifications*. Chapter 6 of the *Construction Manual* is a component of Caltrans quality assurance program. On April 14, 2008, the FHWA approved the changes to Table 6-1.6 of the *Construction Manual*.

The new Table 6-1.6, "Hot Mix Asphalt Materials Acceptance," is attached and will replace the existing *Construction Manual* Table 6-1.6. The frequencies of sampling and testing indicated in the table are used under normal conditions and are Caltrans' minimum sampling and testing requirements for materials acceptance of Hot Mix Asphalt and its component materials. Any materials that marginally meet specifications should be sampled and tested more frequently.

If you have questions regarding Hot Mix Asphalt acceptance testing, please contact Terrie Bressette, Office of Flexible Pavement Materials, at (916) 227-7303 or Chuck Suszko, Office of Construction Engineering, at (916) 227-7314.

Attachment: Table 6-1.6 Hot Mix Asphalt Materials Acceptance