

# CHAPTER A

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## **A.00 Introduction**

This chapter contains information relevant to the “A” Family, Flexible Pavement.

For “A” Family charging practice instructions, see Maintenance Manual Volume 2.

Refer to the “Maintenance Technical Advisory Guide” (MTAG) for complete description of materials, applications and recommended highway maintenance strategies for flexible pavements.

## **A.01 Definitions**

Maintenance of asphalt pavement covers the repair of both surface and base of the roadbed between State right of way lines. It includes public road approaches and city street intersections within State right of way.

Maintenance work can be defined as work performed to preserve the riding qualities, safety characteristics, functional serviceability and structural integrity of the facilities that comprise the roadways on the State highway system.

Pavement preservation is a standard practice for Caltrans. Pavement preservation utilizes preventive and corrective strategies for highway maintenance. It helps keep the roadway in a safe condition, while providing the customers with roads that are in a state of good repair.

Preventive Maintenance (PM1) is a planned treatment on a road in good condition. It is intended to preserve the system, retard future deterioration, prolong the service life and delay the need for rehabilitation. Corrective Maintenance (PM2) is a responsive treatment, which is intended to temporarily correct a specific pavement distress. Both PM1 and PM2 are performed by either contract or State forces. The work is limited to \$60,000 unless approved by the District Director or his designee as Major Maintenance.

A flexible pavement is a roadbed surfaced with asphalt concrete (AC) or a Portland cement concrete (PCC) pavement with two (2) inches or more of AC surfacing overlay. Oiled earth, gravel and earth surfaces are also considered flexible pavement.

The roadbed is that portion of the roadway, including ramps and public road approaches, that extends from curb line to curb line or shoulder line to shoulder line, including dikes. Divided highways are considered to have two (2) roadbeds.

## A.02 Maintenance Levels

The general objective of roadbed maintenance is to preserve roadbed facilities by applying pavement preservation strategies that provide a roadway that is safe and in a state of good repair.

Maintenance of the roadbed covers the restoration and repair of both surface and underlying layers.

Typical defects to be considered in pavement maintenance are slippery pavement, cracking, raveling, corrugations, loss of lateral support from edge of pavement, wheel rutting, potholes, settlement, heave or distortion, base failure, drip track erosion, and abrupt vertical surface differential.

Defects that immediately affect safety should be given first priority in pavement maintenance. Typical defects in this category are slippery pavement, raveling, rutting, potholes, and abrupt vertical variations.

Second priority should be given to the correction of defects having a long-range effect on riding quality and capital investment. Typical examples in this category are pavement cracks and traveled way and shoulder distress.

The following summaries provide typical defects in pavement maintenance and actions to be taken:

### (A) Slippery Pavement

- (1) Pavement surface texture could become slippery as a result of aging, excess asphalt, wear, etc.
- (2) Routine surveillance of pavement texture should be made and suspected slippery areas should be promptly reported.
- (3) Suspected slippery areas should be promptly reported for further investigation.
- (4) Obvious slippery areas should be corrected to the extent feasible under the prevailing conditions. When additional corrective action is necessary, it should be initiated or scheduled promptly.

(B) Cracks

- (1) Cracked pavement allows water and foreign material to enter the structural section and ultimately may cause failure.
- (2) Routine surveillance for Alligator cracking (A, B and C) should be made and corrective action taken.
- (3) Individual cracks  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide or wider and any areas with extensive finer cracking should be repaired before the rainy season to protect the structural section.

(C) Raveling

- (1) Raveling is an indication of failure of the binder or aggregate. Once started, it may develop quite rapidly.
- (2) Raveling should be corrected before safety is impaired or extensive pavement loss occurs.

(D) Corrugations

- (1) Corrugations are repetitive distortions of asphalt surface resulting in poor ride quality.
- (2) Corrugations should be corrected before safety is impaired.

(E) Settlement, Heave and Distortion

- (1) This type of roadbed defect often results in poor riding quality, and excessive impact loading of bridges and slabs. It does not always involve failure of structural section. Typical causes are fill-settlement, unstable cuts, expansive soils, and unconsolidated basement soil.
- (2) Settlement, heave, and distortion may not cause any problems at low speed, but would be objectionable at high speed.
- (3) Surface irregularities and vertical edges create a rough riding pavement. Many irregularities are not as obvious to a driver at high speeds as they are at low speeds.

- (4) An abrupt vertical differential between the traveled way and paved shoulder should be scheduled for repair when the ride quality is objectionable.
  - (5) Corrections for surface irregularities should be scheduled when surface deviations reach 1½ inches in a length of 50 feet, or when the ride quality is objectionable.
- (F) Wheel Track Rutting
- (1) Wheel track ruts have the undesirable effect of trapping water and may cause pavement deterioration.
  - (2) Corrections should be scheduled when the groove exceeds one (1) inch in depth when a straight edge is placed at right angles to the direction of travel, or when water is ponding.
- (G) Drip Track Erosion
- (1) This is pavement erosion caused generally by crankcase drippings.
  - (2) Correction should be scheduled when the resulting erosion exceeds ½ inch, when water is ponding or when evidence indicates the binder is ineffective.
- (H) Potholes
- (1) Potholes are subject to rapid enlargement and may result in considerable pavement loss and objectionable ride.
  - (2) Potholes should be repaired promptly.
  - (3) Potholes would be of concern for smooth ride, especially for motorcyclists.
- (I) Base Failures
- (1) There are many degrees of base failure as evidenced by cracking or distortion in the surfacing. Many corrective measures may be applied, and ultimately the base may need replacement. Base failures are those which require removal and replacement of the defective material.

- (2) When base material in localized areas becomes contaminated or broken to the extent that riding quality and structural integrity of the pavement cannot be restored by surface treatments, the defective base material should be removed and replaced. When necessary, temporary repairs should be made until permanent repairs can be scheduled.
- (J) Dikes and Berms
- (1) AC dikes and earth berms control roadbed runoff and protect slopes from erosion. When not maintained as built, extensive damage to the roadway may result.
  - (2) Damaged dikes and berms, which will allow runoff to erode the roadway, should be repaired promptly or temporary repairs made until permanent repairs can be scheduled.
  - (3) Damaged dikes and berms not falling under the above category should be routinely repaired in conjunction with other maintenance operations to minimize traffic disruption.
  - (4) AC dikes and asphalted-treated berms in areas where asphalt material is subject to rapid oxidation or freezing conditions should be inspected annually and sealed when there is evidence of raveling, cracking or other surface deterioration.

### **A.03 Policy for Performing Roadbed Maintenance Work**

Caltrans is dedicated to performing pavement preservation by both preventive and corrective maintenance strategies; performing the “Right Work on the Right Road at the Right Time.”

Roadbed maintenance work can be accomplished by either contract or State forces. This work is further subdivided into two broad categories; routine maintenance work and Major Maintenance work. When possible, the use of low cost strategies should be used to accomplish preventive maintenance.

It is the State's policy to contract out maintenance work that lends itself to this mode whether it is routine maintenance or Major Maintenance work. Work that is contracted out must be in full conformance with the relative provisions of the State Contract Act.

In exceptional situations, particularly on smaller projects, it may be impractical to contract for the work. Use of Maintenance crews is permissible under the following circumstances:

- (A) The project is so affected by conditions on site or existing structure as to make it impractical to define the details of the work with sufficient accuracy to permit competitive bidding.
- (B) The work is to be done at a remote location and contractors do not appear to be interested in the project. However, in general, this should be determined by advertising for bids or by documented contact with local contractors indicating they are not interested.
- (C) Where there is an urgent need for the work to start immediately and it is not feasible to use one of the contracting procedures involving competitive bidding.

Legally, Maintenance funds can only be spent for maintenance work. Reconstruction, rehabilitation and improvement work shall not be performed with Maintenance funds. Maintenance work can be defined as the preservation and keeping each type of roadway, structure, safety convenience or device, planting, illumination equipment, and other facility in a safe and usable condition to which it was constructed or improved, it does not include reconstruction or other improvements.

### **Maintenance Work by State Forces**

Routine maintenance work is defined as maintenance work (at one or more locations) grouped together, where the distance between projects is at least two (2) miles, and total estimated project cost is less than \$60,000. Major Maintenance projects must meet the same criteria as routine maintenance work, except the estimated value of the project is over \$60,000. Within this limit, AC overlays are limited to 1/10<sup>th</sup> foot thickness, with additional allowance for filling depressions and wheel ruts.

All Major Maintenance by State forces shall be approved by the District Director or his/her designee and submitted to the Headquarters Office of Roadway Maintenance with the district's annual highway maintenance pavement work plan. When Major Maintenance work is done by State forces, they are restricted to less than \$125,000 for all strategies. Routine maintenance work (under \$60,000) is usually accomplished by State forces, and does not require specific District Director approval.

The upper monetary limits specified above are necessary to clearly label them as maintenance work; not reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement work. Major Maintenance work can be done by contract or State forces, provided the relative restrictions on State forces work are met.

Exceptions to the monetary limits require specific approval of the District Director and notification to Headquarters Maintenance.

If State forces costs have been underestimated and it is necessary to exceed the estimate to complete the project, specific District Director approval is required, with notification to Headquarters Maintenance. There may be instances when the job scope will have to be reduced.

Routine maintenance requires the use of an E-FIS Reporting Code in the Integrated Maintenance Management System (IMMS). Major Maintenance requires the use of both an E-FIS Reporting Code and a Project Code in IMMS. See Maintenance Manual Volume 2 for instructions regarding the use of E-FIS Reporting Code and Project Code.

### **Maintenance Performed by Contract**

When Major Maintenance is performed by contract, please refer to Major Maintenance Policy Directive “Work by Contract and Work by State Forces.”

Each year, the HQ Division of Maintenance transmits to the districts, the allocation of funds for contract maintenance, including any specific restrictions that are included in these allocations. The districts shall submit their pavement programs to the HQ Division of Maintenance for review. Major Maintenance projects to be accomplished by State forces will be included in this program, but the districts have the responsibility to provide funding and staffing for this work. Additional projects or changes can be made to the program throughout the year with notification to the HQ Division of Maintenance. A State force “Major Maintenance Completion Report” shall be submitted no later than September 1<sup>st</sup> for Major Maintenance work accomplished in the previous year.

District Directors are responsible to see that roadbed maintenance work in their districts is carried out in conformance to the foregoing policies. The HQ Division of Maintenance must be made aware of deviations or exceptions.

The following criteria comprise the Maintenance Program policy for the selection and use of the various strategies of maintenance that are available:

#### **(A) Criteria for the Use of Chip Seals**

The use of chip seals is a good strategy for preventive maintenance. Good candidates for chip seals should have less than 10 percent alligator “B” cracking and all ¼ inch cracks are tightly sealed. All alligator “B” cracking should be sealed prior to chip sealing.

The use of chip seals for preventive and Major Maintenance work shall be in conformance with the current standard which considers speed limits, average daily traffic (ADT) and the percentage of trucks. Considering the history of the chip sealing, an ADT of 30,000 will be the maximum ADT allowed when speed limits are 45 mph or higher. Contact the Headquarters Office of Roadway Maintenance for details regarding



the use of lightweight aggregates as an alternative for using conventional aggregates on higher ADT highways.

For emulsion chip seals at locations with ADT less than 5,000 per lane, districts may select a 3/8 inch chip size. For all higher ADT roads the size of chip will be 5/16 inches.

For “Hot Applied” chip seals by contract (Polymer Modified and Rubberized Binders), 3/8 inch chips is the standard size chip to be used. For locations with ADT less than 5,000 per lane or high truck volumes, districts may select a chip size of 1/2 inch. Aggregate gradation for these seals shall be kept coarse to deter flushing problems caused by the high binder content and excessive fines in some designs. This is not a State forces strategy.

In areas where there is significant wheel rutting or there are irregularities (greater than 1/2 inch), corrective action should be taken to include either placement of an AC leveling course, or grinding and crack filling. The intent is to deter the flushing that often occurs in the wheel tracks or low spots caused by runoff of the binders from the higher spots to the depressions, and to prevent drainage problems. Provision for sanding or fog sealing the finished chip seal will be made if bleeding or chip loss is thought to be a problem. For all contracted chip seals work, fog sealing and sanding (flush coats) are required.

It is recommended that cracks 1/4 inch or wider be filled or sealed before rainy season, preferably during fall and spring when the cracks are open allowing more sealant to penetrate. Cracks should be cleaned before filling or sealing by sweeping with a hard bristled broom or compressed air to remove any dirt, debris, and/or vegetation from the cracks. When moisture is present or suspected, the most effective crack sealing is performed by preparing the crack using hot compressed air (hot lance) immediately prior to application of sealing material. All cracks should be completely filled and squeegeed during sealing to save material, prevent road noise, improve ride quality and prevent bleeding or masking through future surface treatments.

Additionally, it is recommended that crack fillers be placed several months before chip seals (depending on local climatic conditions) to assure sufficient cure time for various crack filling products. It has been proven that proper sealing or filling of cracks prior to placing surface treatments can greatly extend the life of roadways, retard future cracking, minimize secondary cracking and reduce water infiltration.

Latex modifiers will be used in all emulsion chip seals. Continued experimentation is encouraged on chip seal projects for testing new products and techniques for increased flexibility, improved resistance to flushing, better chip adhesion, reduced windshield breakage, better crack filling and sealing, and longer life.

(B) Criteria for the Use of Slurry Seals

A slurry seal is used as one of the preventive maintenance strategies. Polymer modifiers will be used in all slurry seals.

Preparatory work, including crack filling, pavement repair and rut filling shall be done in all cases prior to slurry sealing. Excessive overfilling with crack sealants shall be avoided to prevent fat spots in the slurry seal.

Slurry seal specifications have been written and are available for districts to use as a preventative maintenance strategy when 10 percent or less alligator “B” cracking is present.

Slurry seals can be placed in areas that chip seals would not be a good choice due to high ADT, e.g. intersections, signaled and stop areas, business areas, areas that are heavily shaded, etc.

Slurry seals can be placed in areas with pavement and ambient temperatures are as low as 50 degrees F. Slurry seals should not be placed at night, and by design are intended to be a single stone thick application.

When ruts, night work or colder temperatures restrict the use of a standard slurry seal, contact the TransLab regarding the use of micro surfacing. Micro surfacing uses a chemical break and may be placed in cooler conditions as low as 40 degrees F.

(C) Paved Shoulder Sealing

The normal treatments for paved shoulders when seal coats are being placed is as follows:

As a minimum, paved shoulders will receive a rejuvenating agent, sand seal or fog seal.

If the condition of the paved shoulder is poor and it has already had several applications of fog seal or rejuvenating agent, the shoulder will receive a chip seal or a slurry seal the same as the traveled way. When applying a slurry seal, consider the use of Type II or Type III to prevent water from being trapped at the edge line.

In those situations where traffic, weather, or other special conditions require the application of open graded AC, the application may be extended to the paved shoulder when it is four (4) feet or less in width. When the shoulder is over four (4) feet wide, the open graded AC shall be placed one (1) foot beyond the edge of the traveled way. The outside six (6) inches of the open graded AC will be hot rolled immediately after being placed so as to produce a taper from  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick to nearly nothing.

Pavement overlays one (1) inch thick or greater should cover the entire shoulder, regardless of the width of the shoulder.

**A.04 Surface Types**

The traveled way of the State highway system consists of two basic types for maintenance purposes:

(A) Flexible Type Surfacing (Flexible Roadbed)

Includes all highways with AC surfacing and PCC pavement with AC overlay of two (2) inches or more.

Oiled earth, gravel and earth surfaces are also considered as flexible type surfacing.

Specifically, flexible pavement is composed of the following types as listed in the California State Highway Log:

Surface Type (Flexible)	
CODE	TYPE
H	With base and surface thickness 7 inches or more
M	With base and surface thickness less than 7 inches and Oiled Gravel
O	Oiled Earth, Gravel
E	Earth

(B) Rigid Type Surfacing (Rigid Roadbed).

The "A" Family covers maintenance of flexible roadbeds and the "B" Family covers maintenance of rigid roadbeds. Various phases of work involved in these two Families are described in this chapter and Chapter "B" of this manual.

### **A.05 Types of Flexible Roadbed Failures**

Flexible roadbed may fail by any one or a combination of the following:

- (A) Slippery surface often caused by excess asphalt combined with dense surface texture.
- (B) Cracking, often due to either brittleness of the asphalt mix, movement in the base, or contraction and expansion due to temperature changes.
- (C) Raveling is generally due to a dry mix or oxidation. However, an excessive amount of moisture can contribute to raveling by washing away the asphalt binder. Freeze-thaw cycles also contribute to raveling.
- (D) Distortion is generally from instability of the mixture, an inadequate base, or both. Distortion will often result when a mixture is too “fat”, meaning there is an excess of asphalt binder.
- (E) Erosion, due to solvent liquids from an outside source dripping on the pavement surface. This condition is most often caused by crankcase drippings, particularly on ramps at stop bars.
- (F) Surface breaks are often a result of a lack of base or support under the pavement surface.
- (G) Stripping is closely related to raveling. The cause of stripping is water separating the asphalt binder from the aggregate.
- (H) Oiled gravel or earth surface failures are generally the result of traffic loads and wind or other weather conditions.

### **A.06 Stockpile Materials for Patching Asphalt Surfacing**

Materials for premix, medium-curing (MC) or slow-curing (SC), should be tested by the District Laboratory prior to use, if practical. Premix should be stockpiled at a Maintenance station or other designated locations in rural areas. Storage should be at convenient locations and accessible at all times. Do not stockpile on private property unless necessary a written authority is obtained from the owner of the private property. Avoid locations where stockpiles might cause a traffic hazard, where drainage may be disturbed or where storm water flows can be affected. Stockpiles should be as inconspicuously placed as possible. Keep stockpiles well squared off and free from weed growth, using herbicides if necessary. However, make sure the chemicals from the herbicides do not impact the stockpiled materials. Place ‘State Property’ signs on each stockpile and use appropriate stormwater “Best Management Practices.”

Materials required for asphalt pavement patching are usually obtained from the following sources:

- (A) Commercial hot plants – where plant mix material can be obtained directly from the plant in State-owned or rented trucks for use on the highway or for stockpiling for future use. When sections of highway are some distance away from a hot plant, stockpiling could result in substantial saving of time by providing asphalt plant mix material where and when it is needed.
- (B) Local material pits – material from pits that have been tested by the District Laboratory or are otherwise proven suitable for use. These materials can be either mixed at the pit site or hauled to a mixing table for processing. A motor grader is the most commonly used mixing equipment.

Liquid asphalt for premix may be an SC250, SC800, SC3000, MC250, MC800 or MC3000. The SC type liquid asphalt is slow curing because its solvent is somewhat like a heavy crude oil. The MC type liquid asphalt is a medium curing product with a solvent similar to kerosene.

Generally speaking, the SC liquid asphalts are used in the hot desert climates and MC liquid asphalts are used in the more moderate climates. In many cases, local experiences will dictate the type of liquid asphalt to be used in manufacturing stockpiled materials for patching asphalt surfacing.

For environmental reasons, liquid asphalt is not allowed in some local air districts (air quality management districts or air pollution control districts). The cutbacks used for liquid asphalt give off emissions that are not permitted by the local air district in those areas. The local air district can provide information regarding local requirements.

#### **A.07 Asphalt Concrete Pavement**

Asphalt concrete pavement consists of a mixture of mineral aggregate and asphalt binder mixed and spread in accordance with specifications. The gradation of the aggregates varies because of the need for meeting traffic requirements and the availability of aggregate material in the geographical location.

Asphalts are generally grouped in three classifications, including:

- (1) Paving asphalts;
- (2) Liquid asphalts; and
- (3) Asphaltic emulsions.

Refer to Sections 92, 93, and 94 of the Standard Specifications for complete definitions, descriptions and requirements.

AC mixtures are generally densely graded. This means that the mixture contains very few voids. In some instances, open graded mixtures, mixtures that contain more voids than dense graded mixtures, are used for pavement wearing surfaces. These mixtures have the advantage of draining surface water through the voids. However, they are somewhat susceptible to damage under freeze-thaw conditions. In addition, rubberized asphalt gap graded mixes are being used throughout the state.

For open graded AC, the asphalt binder for mixing with aggregate may be Performance Grade (PG) or Performance Grade- Modified (PG-M) conforming to Section 92 of the Standard Specifications. Climate and experience will indicate which asphalt binder is best for a particular location. In addition, polymer modified and rubberized asphalt binders are available to use for open graded AC.

Difficulties are encountered in hauling hot open graded AC a long distance from a hot plant, because the exterior of the mass tends to chill and the asphalt binder in the mix drains to the bottom of the truck (draindown). This draindown results in excess asphalt binder in that portion of the load. This also requires frequent cleaning of the truck beds due to the accumulated asphalt.

Best results can be obtained in hauling and spreading open graded AC by performing a proper mix design to determine the optimum binder content that prevents draindown during hauling and spreading.

Hot material spreads and compacts very easily through the spreader box. However, when the mass cools, due to weather or long hauls, considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining a satisfactory spreading and compacting. Covering the trucks with tarp can assist keeping the material hot and help in satisfactory spreading and compacting in difficult environments.

For the technical specifications for AC used in the Caltrans construction work, refer to Section 39 of the Standard Specifications.

### **A.08 Surface Repairs of Oiled Earth, Gravel or Earth Surfaces**

Maintenance of oiled earth, gravel or earth surfaces, whether in the desert, valley or mountains, is similar and may be done as follows:

- (A) Maintain a crown on the traveled way. This is essential for adequate drainage transverse to the centerline.
- (B) Always attempt to improve drainage of all ditches and culvert outlets.
- (C) Grade dikes or berms on the shoulders of all fill sections to prevent formation of gullies on slopes. Also provide outlets to discharge pipes to prevent erosion.
- (D) Correct sub-base drainage when surface rolls or distorts. Use perforated metal pipe or rock drains. Locate all depressions during or following a rain and fill with good material. Because of potential cloudbursts in desert areas, numerous drainage outlets must be provided to prevent ponding or scouring.
- (E) During regular maintenance grading always attempt to improve the superelevation in curves.
- (F) If possible, grade after a rain and compact the surface under traffic.
- (G) Dry weather grading may be necessary to provide a smooth surface. Use caution not to cut too deeply or have excess loose material on the surface. Do not leave a windrow of material on the traveled way overnight.

Corrugations in an earth or gravel surface are usually caused by lack of binder in a surface composed principally of rounded coarse aggregate, or a surface predominantly composed of fine material. This condition should be relieved by blading a sufficient depth below the surface to remove the corrugations from the traveled way.

Another method to remove corrugations is by the addition of material with uniform gradation so that when it is compacted, it will retain its shape under normal traffic conditions. Blade the center area first, working outward toward the edges. Potholes should be filled with select material prior to the grading operations.

### **A.09 Base Repairs**

Prior to making surface repairs on any AC pavement, determine whether or not the damage was the result of a base failure. If a base failure is evident, decide whether or not the base should be repaired. A surface repair will frequently add sufficient strength to the pavement structural section so that a base repair is not necessary.

Remove all broken material when a base repair is made. Inspect the soil or other material on which the base was laid. Replace poor material as required. Reconstruct the base, preferably with base type AC. If this is not practical, reconstruct using whatever good materials may be available. Leave room on the top of the base patch in a suitable thickness to receive the wearing course AC pavement.

### **A.10 Surface Repairs of Flexible Pavement**

All AC used in the “A” Family will require the use of E-FIS Reporting Code MMRPAVER, MMCTPAVER, MMGRIND, MMAC or MMRUB. Please refer to the Maintenance Manual Volume 2.

Surface repairs to asphalt pavement vary from very shallow patches tight bladed onto the old surface with a motor grader to pothole patching to Major Maintenance overlay. Surface maintenance is not to be confused with resurfacing or reconstruction of an asphalt pavement.

Generally, reconstruction or resurfacing will cover several miles of highway. The good portions as well as the poor portions are reconstructed or resurfaced. Major Maintenance patching should be done only where the need exists, and where a major patch will take the place of a series of small patches.

Asphalt pavement, whether premix or asphalt concrete, will weigh on the average 12 pounds per one (1) square foot and one (1) inch thick. A good rule of thumb is  $l \times w \times 0.006 = \text{tons needed}$ .

### **A.11 Pothole and Other Patches**

Remove all loose material prior to patching potholes. Shape the area evenly with sloping sides to the depth of the patch. The bottom and sides should be primed. For priming, use either liquid asphalt or asphalt emulsion.

Premix material is then placed in the hole and compacted. Make allowance for compaction that will permit the finished surface of the patch to be just slightly above the surrounding surface. As a general rule, premix asphalt paving material will compact  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch for each one (1) inch of loosely placed thickness.



Small patches may be laid directly on top of asphalt concrete surfaces in some instances. Before this is done, the surface to be patched must be clean and free of any foreign substances. Apply a tack coat of asphalt emulsion to the area to be patched prior to applying the patch material.

Small patches may be laid by hand. On larger patches, it may be more effective to use a motor grader or an asphalt concrete spreading box. Larger patches should be thoroughly rolled. All patches should have squared ends and straight sides for a properly finished appearance.

During periods of cold and inclement weather, potholes can be patched with patented special mixes. The special mixes do not require that the pothole be dry, nor is a prime necessary. Though more expensive than a normal stockpiled premix material, special mixes reduce patching costs because they stay in the potholes much longer.

### **A.12 Extensive Surface Repairs and Major Maintenance Blankets**

A Maintenance Blanket may be used to make the necessary repairs when pavement failure becomes extensive, over and beyond that requiring pothole or other small patches. Maintenance Blankets should be planned in the district's Major Maintenance Program. See this Section A.03 for policy on Major Maintenance projects with MM E-FIS Reporting Codes.

The surface to receive a blanket should be carefully broomed of all loose material. Prior to placing the blanket, the surface should be tack coated with an asphalt emulsion of RS, CRS, SS, CSS grade or PASS. The rate of application should be enough to wet the surface of the old pavement and provide a bond between the new surfacing material and the old one.

### **A.13 Surface Corrugations**

Corrugations and shoving usually occur in asphalt layers that lack stability. Lack of stability may be caused by a mixture that is too rich in asphalt, has too high a proportion of fine aggregate, has coarse or fine aggregates which are too round or too smooth textured, or has asphalt binder which is too soft. It may also be due to excessive moisture, contamination due to oil spillage or lack of aeration when placing mixes using emulsified or cutback asphalts.

If the corrugated pavement has an aggregate base with a thin surface treatment, a satisfactory corrective measure is to scarify the surface, mix it with the base and recompact the mixture before resurfacing.

If the pavement has more than two (2) inches of asphalt surfacing, shallow corrugations can be removed with a pavement-planing machine. This is followed with a seal coat or plant-mixed surface.

Shoved areas must be removed and patched for effective repair.

#### **A.14 Heat Treatment**

In some instances it may be advisable to remove the surface course of AC pavement. In other cases, it may be advisable to reduce the quantity of asphalt binder in a pavement surface.

A pavement-planing machine, such as a heater-planer, will accomplish this work by softening the surface so that it may be bladed into a windrow by a motor grader. Heater-planers must be used in accordance with local air district laws or policy.

After removal of a thin asphaltic layer or an asphaltic film with a heater-planer, the remaining surface may be left as planed if it is in good condition. However, in most cases a new AC surface or a seal coat should be applied after a heater-planer treatment.

Another treatment that should be considered in rural areas to remove excess surface asphalt is the use of an agricultural weed burner. This process has been used successfully, and consists of making one pass over the pavement at about two (2) to three (3) miles per hour. This is a very economical process to improve skid resistance in appropriate situations. It also must be cleared for air pollution control by the local air district.

#### **A.15 Seal Coats**

Seal coats may be required on asphalt pavement when the pavement shows signs of (a) raveling or erosion, (b) oxidation, (c) permeable surface or (d) slipperiness.

A continuous seal should be considered when raveling and checking becomes general or the surface of an asphalt pavement becomes permeable to water. Refer to Section 37 of the Standard Specifications for detailed information on seal coats. The amount and type of asphalt binder and size of screening selected should be such that maximum temperatures will not cause excessive bleeding. Upon completion, the newly sealed surface should be inspected to determine that it has a nonskid surface equal or superior to the surface it replaced.

#### **A.16 Preparation Prior to Applying Seal Coats**

Prior to, applying a seal coat, correct base failures and corrugated or distorted surface conditions. Apply seals only on a dry surface (except for fog seal). Sweep the surface clean with power brooms, supplemented by hand brooming as necessary.

Level depressions with premix. This work should be done far enough in advance of the seal coat application to allow for complete curing of the premix. If this is not done, the asphalt will penetrate the uncured premix and will not hold the screenings. Rich spots in the surface to be sealed should be removed by diskings, heater-planer or scarifying and re-mixing before the seal is placed.

### A.17 Types of Seal Coats

Seal coats commonly used in maintenance work are:

- (A) Fog seals
- (B) Sand seals or flush coats
- (C) Scrub Seals
- (D) Chip seals
- (E) Slurry seals

The type of seal coat required is usually dictated by field conditions. The five types of seal coats and their applications are described below.

- (A) Fog seals consist of a light spray application of diluted asphalt emulsion used primarily to seal an existing asphalt surface to reduce raveling and enrich dry and weathered surfaces. Typical application rate for the diluted emulsion (equal amount of asphalt to water, i.e. 1 to 1 ratio) delivered to job site is 0.10 to 0.125 gallons per square yard. The condition of the surface dictates the application rate. No cover material is to be applied.
- (B) Sand seals or flush coats consist of asphalt emulsion applied at a rate per square yard dictated by the condition of surfacing. Cover material can be obtained by using sand from commercial sources or screened material from local pits or streambed, which has been tested by the District Laboratory or otherwise found suitable for use. Do not use sand that contains clay or deleterious material.
- (C) Scrub seals consist of applying polymer modified asphalt to the pavement surface followed by broom scrubbing of the asphalt into cracks and voids. This is followed by the application of an even coat of sand or small aggregate and a second brooming of the aggregate and asphalt mixture. This seal is then rolled with a pneumatic tired roller.
- (D) Chip seals consist, in general, of spreading high viscosity asphaltic emulsion with additives followed by spreading rock screenings (chips) in the appropriate rates of application determined in accordance with the section on seal coats to be found in Section 37 of the Standard Specifications. Sometimes paving grade asphalts with special additives are used in lieu of emulsion for the binder. A flush coat should follow all chip seals.

On chip seals, the spread rate of emulsion and weight of cover material required will vary somewhat based on the condition of the surface covered, temperature, and type of screenings used.

- (E) Slurry seal consists of an application of a mixture of mixing-type asphaltic emulsion, sometimes with additives, mineral aggregate and water, proportioned, mixed and spread

on a pavement free of dirt and loose gravel. For complete specifications on slurry seal consult Section 37 of the Standard Specifications.

#### **A.18 Pavement Rejuvenator**

A pavement rejuvenator treatment consists of an application of a rejuvenator material in a procedure similar to a fog seal. This treatment is most effective on dry, porous pavements. The material should be applied well in advance of the rains, if possible. If it is not possible to apply the material in advance of the rains, it should be applied after the rains in the spring.

It is important to run permeability tests on the pavement prior to application of pavement rejuvenator to determine the proper application rate according to the manufacturer's recommendation. The application rate should be based on test results at the most dense location. If complete penetration of the surface does not occur, apply sand to prevent slippery conditions. Perform tests within one (1) week after the application to check the pavement surface.

#### **A.19 Spreading Cover Material over Seal Coats**

On seal coats where either asphalt emulsions or liquid asphalts are used, do not spread the asphalt too far in advance. Make certain that the cover material is placed at the most opportune time to obtain adhesion.

Mechanical spreaders for sand or screening (chip) cover should be used for a uniform cover and to eliminate surplus cover that is usually lost.

When sand seals are placed, thoroughly broom the area with drag brooms to properly cover all blank spots and provide a uniform texture.

When chips are used for cover, one or more power rollers should be used immediately behind the trucks spreading the chips to provide initial rolling. A drag broom should not be used on chips because this could displace or overturn the screenings.

Traffic may be routed over newly laid chip seals after they have been rolled but must be restricted to a very slow speed and should be under traffic control until chips are thoroughly set.

Traffic moving at high speeds on chip seals that are not thoroughly set often causes displacement of chips from the surface, resulting in a section with excess asphalt, which "bleeds" in warm weather. Loose aggregate should be removed by brooming when the asphalt has cured. The first brooming should take place at the end of the first day, just prior to the time when traffic controls are removed for the day. Loose material will have a tendency to loosen additional chips under the tires of fast traffic.

### **A.20 Asphalt Pavement Joint and Crack Sealing**

Asphalt pavement is susceptible to cracking. Cracks are generally attributable to the lack of base support, volume change in the AC mixture because of temperature changes, and drying of the AC mixture. Cracks should be repaired to prevent the entrance of moisture into the sub-grade.

Cracks may be filled with emulsion, emulsion and rejuvenator mixture, rubber asphalt, or liquid asphalt. Wider cracks may be filled with special asphalt combinations or heavier bodied asphalt material with additives. When using emulsion, light grade liquid asphalts or asphalt rejuvenators for crack repairs, fine sand should be mixed with the liquid or applied to the surface of the crack after it has been filled.

Cracks should be cleaned prior to filling. A stiff broom may be used for this purpose. Compressed air may also be used, if available. Caution must be exercised when using compressed air to clean cracks to avoid lose materials from flying into the active lane or hitting equipment and workers. A gouge-type tool or mechanical router can also be used for crack cleaning.

Small cracks, such as alligator cracking, should be repaired by tacking a blocked-out area and applying chips or other similar material. A thin patch of hot plant mix may also accomplish the same purpose. When using these methods, the seal or patch should be blocked out to give a uniform rectangular appearance.

Slippage cracks are caused by the lack of a good bond between the pavement's surfaced layer and the course beneath. The only proper way to permanently repair a slippage crack is to remove the surface layer to where good bond between the layers is found, and then patch the area with plant mixed AC.

### **A.21 Work on Asphalt Shoulders**

Due to the hazards of traffic, work on paved asphalt shoulders should be confined to one side of the highway at a time. Workers shall be given protection while working on paved shoulders as outlined in Chapter 8 of this manual.

### **A.22 Road Approaches to Public Roads**

City or county authorities must obtain permit from Caltrans prior to doing any work on a road approach within the State highway right of way.

The following instructions apply to other approaches to public roads:

- (A) Where State highways connect with county roads and city streets at grade, Caltrans forces will maintain the roadway to the full width of the right of way.
- (B) Where the intersections of State highways with county roads and city streets are separated by structures, maintenance is performed as provided in the Maintenance Agreement with the local authorities.
- (C) When a new or existing road or street approach is to be constructed by city or county authorities connecting to a State highway, it shall be constructed or improved to meet the standards required for the type and volume of expected traffic.

All public road approaches should be maintained flush with the adjacent shoulder.

Maintenance of freeway interchanges will be in accordance with the Freeway Maintenance Agreements. Maintenance Superintendents should obtain a layout sketch showing in detail the portions of the intersection that are to be maintained by the State.

### **A.23 Non-Motorized Travelers on State Highways**

Non-motorized travel (bicycling/walking) is permitted on State highways with the following exceptions: In general, pedestrians are prohibited from freeways; bicyclists are prohibited from most freeways, but permitted on segments where there is no alternate route parallel to the freeway. Highway improvements and maintenance operations on facilities where non-motorized travel is permitted shall consider the needs and safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

The following considerations shall be taken into account when planning highway maintenance:

- (A) In the placement of maintenance blankets, traffic lanes as well as paved shoulders shall be overlaid to prevent creation of a longitudinal step along the right-hand portion of the roadway.
- (B) In the application of seal coats, if the roadway is 26 feet or less in width, the entire surface should be sealed. For wider roadways, the normal procedure is to seal only the traffic lanes plus a foot (26 feet). However, if the shoulders need sealing, they should be sealed full width to provide a uniform surface. The size and gradation of the aggregates must be selected carefully when bicyclists are allowed on the paved surface.

- (C) Routine roadway maintenance (e.g. repairing deteriorated pavement, roadway excavations, etc.) should be done in such a manner that a uniform surface, free of obstructions, is maintained across the full paved width of roadways. If the right-hand shoulder of the roadways is not properly maintained, bicyclists and pedestrians will find it necessary to share the traffic lanes with motor vehicles.