



Construction Policy Bulletin

CPB 09-8 Asphalt Construction Details

References: *Standard Specifications*
Construction Manual

Amended Section 92, "Asphalt"
Section 4-92, "Asphalt"

Effective Date: July 7, 2009

Approved: 
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Approval Date: July 6, 2009

Background

Caltrans has made major changes to its Standard Specifications, Section 92, "Asphalt," including changing from the Aged Residue classification system to Performance Graded classification system for asphalt. California joined the other 49 states by implementing the performance graded system for unmodified paving asphalts on January 1, 2006. The performance graded system uses rigorous grading specifications to produce consistent asphalt grades. It is based on the asphalt binder's contribution to asphalt pavement distress (that is, rutting, durability, and low-temperature cracking) for specific project climate conditions. The performance graded system allows for the selection of the binder grade best suited to a specific project's environment to minimize pavement distress.

On January 1, 2007, Caltrans implemented Section 92, "Asphalt," of the *Amended Standard Specifications* to replace the Performance Based Asphalt Binder classification system for modified asphalt with the Performance Grade Polymer Modified Asphalt Binder classification system.

The other major change to Section 92, "Asphalt," of the *Standard Specifications* requires that for asphalt producers to be on the Caltrans approved suppliers list, they must meet the standards in the *Certification Program for Suppliers of Asphalt*. The program specifies procedures for a system-based program that incorporates review and statistical evaluation of a supplier's product and testing program, historical data analysis, and Caltrans quality assurance testing of asphalt samples taken at project sites.

The *Certificate Program for Suppliers of Asphalt* provides information on the following:

- General requirements for the supplier to obtain and maintain approved supplier status as a certified supplier of modified and unmodified asphalts and as a certified supplier of individual asphalt grades.
- Minimum requirements for a supplier's quality control plan.
- General requirements for Caltrans to evaluate and certify asphalt suppliers.
- Requirements for use of asphalt provided by suppliers not on the Caltrans approved supplier list.

Existing Procedure

Section 4-92, “Asphalt,” of the *Construction Manual* provides guidelines for ensuring compliance with the specifications and measurement for asphalt.

New Procedure

The amended manual Section 4-92 (attached) implements the changes in the Amended Section 92, “Asphalt,” of the *Standard Specifications*. The manual contains new subsections including references, resources, and contract administration.

Assistant resident engineers who perform duties of inspectors and materials testers should use the information provided in Section 4-92 as guidance to ensure that actions taken related to asphalt are appropriate. Resident engineers should use Section 4-9204, “Contract Administration,” as guidance for administering contracts that include use of asphalt.

If you have questions regarding asphalt, please contact Terrie Bressette at terrie_bressette@dot.ca.gov or (916) 227-7303 or Chuck Suszko at chuck_suszko@dot.ca.gov or (916) 227-7314.

Attachment: Construction Manual Section 4-92, “Asphalt”