Construction Policy Bulletin

CPB 16-3 Temporary Transverse Joint Taper

References:	*2010* revised *Standard Specifications*	Section 7-1.03, "Public Convenience" Section 15-5.06C(1), "Construction"
	2015 revised *Standard Specifications*	Section 7-1.03, "Public Convenience" Section 39-3.04C(4), "Temporary HMA Tapers" Section 60-3.04B(3)(c), "Placing Polyester Concrete"
	Construction Manual	Section 3-7, "Legal Relations and Responsibility to the Public" Section 4-39, "Hot Mix Asphalt"
	2010 Standard Special Provisions	Section 15-2.02B(3), "Cold Planing Asphalt Concrete Pavement"
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New Procedure

The July 15, 2016 revision to Section 7-1.03, "Public Convenience," of the 2010 and 2015 *Standard Specifications* includes revised requirements to ensure consistent practices of placing and maintaining temporary joint tapers when a transverse joint cannot be avoided before opening to traffic. This revision requires transverse joint height differentials greater than 0.04 foot to be tapered at slopes shown in the table below. Going projects are not required to implement the revised specification requirements for temporary tapers.

Resident engineers and assistant resident engineers must ensure that the contractor constructs a temporary joint taper between the existing pavement and any newly placed paving or cold planing area before opening to traffic.

Temporary Taper Table

Height differential (foot)	Slope (horizontal:vertical)	
	Taper use of 14 days or less	**Taper use of 14 days or more**
Greater than 0.08	100:1 or flatter	200:1 or flatter
0.04 to 0.08	70:1 or flatter	70:1 or flatter

For a temporary joint taper on existing asphalt concrete or concrete pavement, the taper must be minor hot mix asphalt (HMA) under Section 39-2.07, "Minor Hot Mix Asphalt," of the 2015 *Standard Specifications*. In addition, if the HMA material (for example, rubberized HMA, polymer-modified bonded wearing course, or open-graded friction course) is unsuitable for raking to a maximum 0.02 foot thickness at the edge of the temporary taper or will be in place for more than 14 days, the existing surface is to be ground to accommodate a minimum taper thickness of 0.10 foot.

For a temporary joint taper on a bridge deck or approach slab, the taper must be polyester concrete under Section 60-3.04B, "Polyester Concrete Overlays," of the 2015 *Standard Specifications*.

The temporary joint taper surface must be uniform and must not vary more than 0.02 foot from the lower edge of a 12-foot straightedge when placed on its surface parallel and perpendicular to traffic. Payment for this work is included in the associated items of work (for example, HMA, polyester concrete, cold planing, and other related items of work).

Background

Construction project activities, including overlays and cold planing, produce temporary vertical offsets of varying heights at transverse joints (perpendicular to vehicular traffic) on the travelled way. Prior to opening the travelled way to public traffic, the vertical offsets are mitigated by constructing temporary joint tapers at a specified slope to prevent motorists from experiencing discomfort and goods from being damaged when travelling through the construction zone. The contractor maintains the temporary joint taper through its use and removes the taper when no longer needed.

No procedures currently exist in the *Construction Manual* for administering the requirements for temporary transverse joint pavement tapers.

If you have questions or comments regarding this bulletin, please contact Amy Fong, Division of Construction, at amy.fong@dot.ca.gov or (916) 227-7013.