State of Illinois
Department of Transportation
Division of Aeronautics

POLICY MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2014	Springfield, Illinois	Number 2003-1

TO: CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: REQUIREMENTS FOR LABORATORY, TESTING, QUALITY CONTROL, AND PAVING OF SUPERPAVE HMA CONCRETE MIXTURES FOR AIRPORTS

I. SCOPE

The purpose of this policy memorandum is to define to the Contractor the requirements concerning the laboratory, testing, Quality Control, and paving of HMA mixtures utilizing Superpave technology. References are made to the most recent issue of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Airports (Standard Specifications) and to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) testing methods. The Quality Assurance and acceptance responsibilities of the Resident Engineer are described in Policy Memorandum 96-3.

II. LABORATORY

The Contractor shall provide a laboratory located at the plant and approved by the Illinois Division of Aeronautics (IDA). The laboratory shall be of sufficient size and be furnished with the necessary equipment and supplies for adequately and safely performing the Contractor's Quality Control testing as well as the Resident Engineer's acceptance testing as described in Policy Memorandum 87-2.

The effective working area of the laboratory shall be a minimum of 600 square feet with a ceiling height of not less than 7.5 feet. Lighting shall be adequate to illuminate all working areas. It shall be equipped with heating and air conditioning units to maintain a temperature of 70º F ±5ºF.

The laboratory shall have equipment that is in good working order and that meets the requirements set forth in the following ASTM test standards:

ASTM D 70	Test Method for Specific Gravity and Density of Semi-Solid Materials
ASTM C 117	Test Method for Materials Finer than 75 µm (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing
ASTM C 136	Sieve or Screen Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregate
ASTM C 566	Total Moisture Content of Aggregate by Drying
ASTM D 75	Sampling Aggregates
ASTM D 2041	Theoretical Maximum Specific Gravity and Density of Bituminous Paving Mixtures

ASTM D 2172	Quantitative Extraction of Bitumen from Bituminous Paving Mixtures
AASHTO T 308-09	Ignition Method for Determining Asphalt Content (Illinois Modified)
ASTM D 2726	Bulk Specific Gravity of Compacted Bituminous Mixtures using Saturated Surface Dry Specimens
ASTM D 3203	Percent Air Voids in Compacted Dense and Open Bituminous Paving Mixtures
ASTM D 2950	Density of Bituminous Concrete in Place by Nuclear Method
ASTM D 4125	Asphalt Content of Bituminous Mixtures by Nuclear Method
ASTM C 127	Standard Test Method for Specific Gravity and Absorption of Coarse Aggregate
ASTM C 128	Standard Test Method for Specific Gravity and Absorption of Fine Aggregate

The laboratory and equipment furnished by the Contractor shall be properly calibrated and maintained. The Contractor shall maintain a record of calibration results at the laboratory. The Engineer may inspect measuring and testing devices at any time to confirm both calibration and condition. If the Engineer determines that the equipment is not within the limits of dimensions or calibration described in the appropriate test method, he may stop production until corrective action is taken. If laboratory equipment becomes inoperable or insufficient to keep up with mix production testing, the Contractor shall cease mix production until adequate and/or sufficient equipment is provided.

III. MIX DESIGN SUBMITTAL

Based upon data and test results submitted by the Contractor, the Illinois Division of Aeronautics Engineer of Construction & Materials shall issue the final Job Mix Formula (JMF) approval letter that concurs or rejects the Contractor's proposed JMF. The Contractor will be required to perform the sampling and laboratory testing and develop a complete mix design, according to the following guidelines: Mix design submittals should be sent to IDA, Construction/Material Section, Attn: Certification and Mixtures Engineer. Note: Quality Control (QC) Managers shall be Level III QC/QA qualified and will be responsible for all mix designs. All Technicians obtaining samples and performing gradations shall have successfully completed the IDOT Mixture Aggregate Technician Course and Technicians performing mix design testing and plant sampling/testing shall have successfully completed the IDOT Bituminous Concrete Level 1 Technician Course under the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Materials & Physical Research QC/QA Training Program.

A. Preliminary Mix Design Submittal

Top half of the IDOT Mix Design Software Cover Sheet (QC/QA Package) should be completed for the aggregate mix design parameters and should include the following:

1. Producer name, Producer # and Producer location of each aggregate (Producers are assigned Producer numbers by IDOT Central Bureau of Materials)

2. Material code for each aggregate

3. Aggregate Gradations per ASTM C-136 (The Contractor shall obtain representative samples of each aggregate)

4. Material code for each aggregate (i.e. 022CM11, etc.)

5. Proposed Aggregate Blend (% for each aggregate) Note: Based on the gradation results, the Contractor shall select the blend percentages that comply with the Standard Specifications, Section 401/403 – 3.2 JOB MIX FORMULA, Table 2. (Appendix A)

6. Producer name, Producer #, and specific gravity of the proposed asphalt cement

7. IDOT approved PG Binder 64-22 shall be used unless otherwise specified by the IDA Engineer of Construction & Materials.

B. Mixture Design & Testing

Design Parameters

Gyrations (N_{des}) – per Standard Specifications, Section 401/403 – 3.2 (JMF), Table 1
Asphalt Content – AC% per Standard Specifications, Section 401/403 – 3.2 (JMF), Table 2
Maximum Specific Gravity – G_{mm} (ASTM D 2041)
Bulk Specific Gravity – G_{mb} (ASTM D 2726)
% air voids – V_a (ASTM D3203) per Standard Specifications, Section 401/403 – 3.2 (JMF), Table 2
VFA % – per Standard Specifications, Section 401/403 – 3.2 (JMF), Table 1

Mixture Tests

After verification and approval by IDA of the proposed design information from step A., the Contractor shall perform mixture tests on 4 gyratory brix (4 point mix design) to determine the optimum AC content for the target Air Voids.

C. Mix Design Submittal

The Preliminary JMF including all test results shall be reported to IDA, Construction/Material Section, Attn: Certification and Mixtures with the following data:

a) Aggregate & asphalt cement material codes
b) Aggregate & asphalt cement producer numbers, names, and locations
c) Percentage of each individual aggregate
d) Aggregate blend % for each sieve
e) AC Specific Gravity
f) Bulk Specific Gravity and Absorption for each aggregate
g) Summary of Superpave Design Data: AC % Mix, G_{mb}, G_{mm}, VMA, Voids (Total Mix), Voids Filled, V_{be}, P_{be}, P_{ba}, G_{se}
h) Optimum design data listing: AC % Mix, G_{mb}, G_{mm}, VMA, Voids (Total Mix), Voids Filled, G_{se}, G_{sb}

i) Percent of asphalt that any RAP will add to the mix
j) Graphs for the following: gradation on 0.45 Power Curve, AC vs. Voids (Total Mix), AC vs. Specific Gravities, AC vs. Voids Filled, AC vs. VMA

D. Mix Approval

Once the proposed JMF is reviewed and approved by IDA, a JMF approval letter will be issued to the contractor. Production of HMA is not authorized until a JMF letter has been issued. When a Test Section is specified as part of the contract, the proposed JMF shall be considered preliminary until it passes all Test Section requirements.

E. Change in Material Sources

The above procedure, III. MIX DESIGN SUBMITTAL shall be repeated for each change in source or gradation of materials.

IV. MIX PRODUCTION TESTING

The Quality Control of the manufacture and placement of HMA mixtures is the responsibility of the Contractor. The Contractor shall perform or have performed the inspection and tests required to assure conformance to contract requirements. Quality Control includes the recognition of defects and their immediate correction. This may require increased testing, communication of test results to the plant or the job site, modification of operations, suspension of HMA production, rejection of material, or other actions as appropriate. The Resident Engineer shall be immediately notified of any failing tests and subsequent remedial action. Form AER M-14 shall be reported to IDA, Construction/Material Section, Attn: Certification and Mixtures Engineer and the Resident Engineer no later than the start of the next work day. The Contractor shall provide a Quality Control (QC) Manager who will have overall responsibility and authority for Quality Control. This individual shall have successfully completed the IDOT Division of Highways HMA Concrete Level II Technician Course “HMA Proportioning and Mixture Evaluation.” In addition to the QC Manager, the Contractor shall provide sufficient and qualified personnel to perform the required visual inspections, sampling, testing, and documentation in a timely manner.

A. Gradations for Mixture Proportioning: Aggregate gradations for proportioning (ASTM C-136) are required at a minimum of one per week when mix is produced. Aggregate gradations can be either hot bin gradations for batch plants or stockpile gradations for drier drum plants. Hot bin gradations may be reported on either form AER 9 or on the Division of Highways QC/QA package "Grad 1" Tab in the Daily HMA Plant Reporting Module. Stockpile gradations shall be shown on form MI504QC from the "Print Out" Tab in the Aggregate Stockpile Module of The Division of Highways QC/QA Package.

B. Production Mixture Testing: 1 per 1000 tons of the following (if total daily quantity is < /= 200 tons (small quantity) then a mix sample is not required and this quantity may be added on to next day's total for testing. Two consecutive days without testing is not allowed.): Reflux extraction (ASTM D2172) or Ignition oven test showing gradation and AC Content, Maximum Specific Gravity (ASTM D 2041), Bulk Specific Gravity (ASTM D 2726) and % Air Voids (ASTM D 3203). Calculations of the results (including weight data) shall be shown on the "Voids 1" and "IGN & NUC AC 1" tab printouts from the Division of Highways QC/QA Package Daily HMA Plant Reporting module.

C. A certification from the quarry for the total quantity of aggregate listing the source, gradation type, and quality designation of aggregate shipped. The Aggregate Certification of Compliance (AER18) may be used by the contractor for this purpose.

D. Original asphalt shipping tickets listing the source and type of asphalt shipped.

E. Check sample tests at a rate of 1/5000 tons randomly selected by the R.E. shall be sent with an identification sheet to an independent laboratory designated by the Division of Aeronautics. If the project is < 5000 tons, 1 sample selected randomly shall be sent.

F. Bituminous Test Summary (AER 14) Note: The R.E. should make certain that the Contractor fills this form out daily (for mix production days) and distributes it daily to the Division of Aeronautics and R.E. The Contractor (QC Manager) is required to note any adjustments to the mix or to the plant (proportioning) in the "Remarks/Corrective Measures" section of the AER 14.

V. QUALITY CONTROL

A. Control Limits (Control Charts used for projects > 4000 tons per bituminous concrete pay item)

Target values shall be determined from the approved JMF. The target values shall be plotted on the control charts within the following control limits:

Control Limits

Parameter	Individual Test	Moving Avg. of 4
% Passing		
1/2 in.	± 7 %	±4 %
No. 4	±7 %	±4 %
No. 8	±5 %	±3 %
No. 30	±4 %	±2.5 %
No. 200 *	±2.0 % *	±1.0 % *
Asphalt Content	±0.45 %	±0.2 %

* No. 200 material percent's shall be based on washed samples. Dry sieve gradations (-200) shall be adjusted based on anticipated degradation in the mixing process.

B. Control Charts (Control Charts used for projects > 4000 tons per bituminous concrete pay item)

Standardized control charts shall be maintained by the Contractor at the field laboratory. The control charts shall be displayed and be accessible at the field laboratory at all times for review by the Engineer. The individual required test results obtained by the Contractor shall be recorded on the control chart immediately upon completion of a test, but no later than 24 hours after sampling. Only the required plant tests and resamples shall be recorded on the control chart. Any additional testing of check samples may be used for controlling the Contractor's processes, but shall be documented in the plant diary.

The results of assurance tests performed by the Resident Engineer will be posted as soon as available.

The following parameters shall be recorded on control charts:

1. Combined Gradation of Hot-Bin (Batch Plant) or Combined Belt Aggregate Samples (Drier Drum Plant) (% Passing 1/2 in., No. 4., No. 8, No. 30, and No. 200 Sieves)

2. Asphalt Content

3. Bulk Specific Gravity (G_{mb})

4. Maximum Specific Gravity of Mixture (G_{mm}) C.

Corrective Action for Required Plant Tests

Control Limits for each required parameter, both individual tests and the average of four tests, shall be exhibited on control charts. Test results shall be posted within the time limits previously outlined.

1. Individual Test Result. When an individual test result exceeds its control limit, the Contractor shall immediately resample and retest. If at the end of the day no material remains from which to resample, the first sample taken the following day shall serve as the resample as well as the first sample of the day. This result shall be recorded as a retest. If the retest passes, the Contractor may continue the required plant test frequency. Additional check samples should be taken to verify mix compliance.

2. Asphalt Content. If the retest for asphalt content exceeds control limits, mix production shall cease and immediate corrective action shall be instituted by the Contractor. After corrective action, mix production shall be restarted, the mix production shall be stabilized, and the Contractor shall immediately resample and retest. Mix production may continue when approved by the Engineer. The corrective action shall be documented.

   Inability to control mix production is cause for the Engineer to stop the operation until the Contractor completes the investigation identifying the problems causing failing test results.

3. Combined Aggregate/Hot-Bin. For combined aggregate/hot-bin retest failures, immediate corrective action shall be instituted by the Contractor. After corrective action, the Contractor shall immediately resample and retest. The corrective action shall be documented.

   a. Moving Average. When the moving average values trend toward the moving average control limits, the Contractor shall take corrective action and increase the sampling and testing frequency. The corrective action shall be documented.

      The Contractor shall notify the Engineer whenever the moving average values exceed the moving average control limits. If two consecutive moving average values fall outside the moving average control limits, the

Contractor shall cease operations. Corrective action shall be immediately instituted by the Contractor. Operations shall not be reinstated without the approval of the Engineer. Failure to cease operations shall subject all subsequently produced material to be considered unacceptable.

b. Mix Production Control. If the Contractor is not controlling the production process and is making no effort to take corrective action, the operation shall stop.

VI. TEST SECTION AND DENSITY ACCEPTANCE **(Note: Applies only when specified.)**

A. The purpose of the test section is to determine if the mix is acceptable and can be compacted to a consistent passing density.

A quick way to determine the compaction of the mix is by the use of a nuclear density gauge in the construction of a growth curve. An easy way to construct a growth curve is to use a good vibratory roller. To construct the curve, an area the width of the roller in the middle of the mat is chosen and the roller is allowed to make one compaction pass. With the roller stopped some 30 feet away, a nuclear reading is taken and the outline of the gauge is marked on the pavement. The roller then makes a compaction pass in the opposite direction and another reading is taken. This scenario is continued until at least two (2) passes are made past the maximum peak density obtained.

The maximum laboratory density potential of a given mix is a direct function of the mix design air voids. Whereas, the actual maximum field density is a function of the type of coarse aggregates, natural or manufactured sands, lift thickness, roller type (static or vibratory), roller and paver speed, base condition, mix variation, etc. All of these items are taken into consideration with the growth curve.

1. <u>High Density in the Growth Curve</u>. If the growth curve indicates a maximum achievable field density of between 95 to 98 percent of the Theoretical Maximum Density (D), you can proceed with the Rolling Pattern. On the other hand, if the maximum achievable density is greater than 98 percent, a quick evaluation (by use of an extractor, hot bin gradations, nuclear asphalt determination, etc.) must be made of the mix. When adjustments are made in the mix, a new growth curve shall be constructed.

2. <u>Low Density in the Growth Curve</u>. If the growth curve indicates the maximum achievable density is below 94 percent, a thorough evaluation of the mix, rollers, and laydown operations should be made. After a thorough evaluation of all factors (mix, rollers, etc.), asphalt or gradation changes may be in order as directed by the Engineer. Again, any changes in the mix will require a new growth curve. Note that the nuclear density test is a quality control tool and not an acceptance test. All acceptance testing is to be conducted by the use of cores, unless otherwise specified.

3. Acceptance of Test Section. The Contractor may proceed with paving the day after the test section provided the following criteria have been met:

   a. Four random locations (2 cores per location cut longitudinally and cored by the Contractor) will be selected by the Engineer within the test strip. All the cores must show a minimum of 94% density.

   b. All Superpave and extraction test results from mix produced for the test section must be within the tolerances required by specification.

   c. The Contractor shall correlate his nuclear gauge to the cores taken in the test section. Additional cores may be taken at the Contractor's expense for this purpose within the test section area, when approved by the Engineer.

4. Density Acceptance under Production Paving. The responsibility for obtaining the specified density lies with the Contractor. Therefore, it is important that the nuclear density gauge operator communicate with the roller operators to maintain the specified density requirements. The Contractor shall provide a qualified HMA Density Tester who has successfully completed the Department's "HMA Nuclear Density Testing Course" to run all required density tests on the job site. Density acceptance testing, unless otherwise specified, is described as follows:

   a. The Contractor shall cut cores at random locations within 500 ton sublots as directed by the Resident Engineer.

   b. The cores should be extracted so as not to damage them, since they are used to calculate the Contractor's pay.

   c. The Engineer will run preliminary G_{mb} tests on the cores to give the Contractor an indication of how compaction is running for the next day's paving.

   d. A running average of four (4) Maximum Theoretical Gravities (G_{mm}) will be used for calculating percent compaction.

   e. Final core density tests and pay calculations will be performed by the Resident Engineer and delivered to the Contractor.

   f. Should the contractor wish to resample the pavement as a result of pay calculations resulting in less than 100% payment the request must be made within 48 hours of receipt of the original payment calculation.

Steven J. Long, P.E. Acting Chief Engineer

Supersedes Policy Memorandum 2003-1 dated May 1, 2014

APPENDIX A

AGGREGATE BITUMINOUS BASE COURSE

Percentage by Weight Passing Sieves Job Mix Formula (JMF)		
Sieve Size	Gradation B Range 1” Maximum	Ideal Target
1-1/4 in.	---	---
1 in.	100	100
3/4 in.	93 – 97	95
1/2 in.	75 – 79	77
3/8 in.	64 – 68	66
No. 4	45 – 51	48
No. 8	34 – 40	37
No. 16	27 – 33	30
No. 30	19 – 23	21
No. 100	6 – 10	8
No. 200	4 – 6	5
Bitumen %: Stone	4.5 – 7.0	5.5

AGGREGATE BITUMINOUS SURFACE COURSE

Percentage by Weight Passing Sieves Job Mix Formula (JMF)		
Sieve Size	Gradation B Range ¾" Maximum	Ideal Target
1 in.	100	---
3/4 in.	100	100
1/2 in.	99 - 100	100
3/8 in.	91 - 97	94
No. 4	56 – 62	59
No. 8	36 - 42	39
No. 16	27 - 32	30
No. 30	19 - 25	22
No. 100	7 – 9	8
No. 200	5 – 7	6
Bitumen %: Stone	5.0 – 7.0	6.0