Asphalt Quality Assurance Program

Rob Crandol, P.E. – Statewide Asphalt Program Manager Asphalt Regional Meetings
QUALITY ASSURANCE

PROCESS CONTROL (QC)

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE (IA)

ACCEPTANCE (VST)
Asphalt QA Program

• Contractor – Performs QC

• VDOT – Performs IA & VST
  • Asphalt Certification schools for contractors, inspectors and testing personnel.
    • Plant Certification
    • Field Certification
Quality Control (QC)

• All activities performed to control the quality of the asphalt mixture during production and placement to fulfill the contractor requirements.

• Section 211
  • Mix Design
  • Contractor provides QC testing

• Section 315
  • Mix Placement
  • Contractor provides Field Control - Equipment
  • Density Testing
Independent Assurance (IA)

• Activities that are an unbiased and an independent evaluation of all Operations, sampling and testing procedures, and equipment used in the acceptance program.

• VDOT provides IA during production and placement
  • Inspection – observations
  • Split sample tests
  • Evaluations of Technicians

• AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory
Verification Sampling and Testing (VST)

• Validate the quality of the product
  • Performed by VDOT

• VST should determine if the material is acceptable per specification.

• VDOT uses split samples plus a statistical process of examining Contractor QC test data to verify the accuracy of sampling and testing used in the acceptance decision.
  • Plant

• VDOT uses independent samples
  • Field
Mix Design Approval Process

• Contractor submits mix design laboratory data and forms to VDOT for initial approval.
• Limited production - contractor can produce up to 500 tons or one day’s production. Gyratory samples taken and analyzed by both VDOT and Contractor for compliance with Specification requirements and conformance to submitted mix design.
• Full production approval granted after a successful limited production trial.
Random Truck Sampling
Sample Splitting
VDOT uses the Contractor’s test data (QC) in the acceptance of plant produced Asphalt mixtures.
Producer Samples and Tests (QC)

- Perform Gradation and Asphalt Content testing randomly every 500 tons
- Temperature Measurements 1\textsuperscript{st} and 5\textsuperscript{th} load then at least once an hour
- Volumetric SUPERPAVE tests every 1,000 tons
  - Air Voids (VTM)
  - Voids in Mineral Aggregate (VMA)
  - Voids filled with Asphalt (VFA)
  - Rice test – Maximum Specific Gravity ($G_{mm}$)
VDOT Responsibilities, Samples and Tests

- Inspect Plant equipment and lab for compliance with specifications – IA
- Split sample tests for gradation and Asphalt Content are used for system wide IA and VST purposes
- Volumetrics SUPERPAVE tests used for verification purposes.
  - Air Voids (VTM)
  - Voids in Mineral Aggregate (VMA)
  - Voids filled with Asphalt (VFA)
  - Rice test – Maximum Specific Gravity ($G_{mm}$)
Independent Assurance

Lot 1
1 2 3 4
IA1

Lot 2
1 2 3 4
IA2

Lot 3
1 2 3 4
IA3

Lot 4
1 2 3
IA4

Sample Comparison

QC
4 3 4 2

Matched Comparison Analysis
IA
IA1 IA2 IA3 IA4
Comparison Reports

Asphalt Content

Lab #1

Lab #2

f(x)
• Statistical Tests are performed on both Split Comparison and IA Samples.
• Any non comparison must be investigated, resolved and documented.
Assessment of Random Samples

Is this random?

Group By Tonnage All Quadrants
• Statistics is the tool that VDOT uses to verify the quality of asphalt mixtures.
Asphalt Field Quality Assurance
Contractor Field QC Testing

- Depth Checks
- Cross Slope
- Straight Edge Transverse Joints
- QC Density testing either by Thin Lift Nuclear gauge or through cores/plugs
  - Joint Density
- Test and Test frequency will be determined by Road & Bridge Specifications, Special Provisions or as directed by the Engineer
- Cut plugs for VST at direction of Materials QA technician.
VDOT Project Staff Responsibilities IA

- Verifies Paving equipment meets specifications
- Verifies materials being used are from approved sources
- Take Temperature measurements of AC at least every hour
- Verifies that contractor personnel are performing QC operations correctly
- Verifies Density testing being performed
  - Joint Density
VDOT/Materials VST and IA

- Perform VST testing on plugs
- IA testing
  - Verify method of random selection
  - Marking of test locations
  - Observe QC testing at control strip
  - Observe test sections.
  - Obtain samples of cores from control strip to reweigh in laboratory.
- Depth Control tests
Asphalt Density
Virginia Test Method
VTM-76

• **Stratified Random Locations - QC**
  - Control Strip
  - Test Sections

• **Cores for Control Strips - IA**
  - 6 cores for new mixes
    • 2 cores per site
  - 2 cores
STRATIFIED RANDOM LOCATIONS

1000 ft. 1000 FOOT SECTIONS

5000 FEET

1000 FOOT SECTIONS

TEST SECTION
TEST THREE LOCATIONS

MARK TEST LOCATIONS
ORIENT GAUGE IN SAME DIRECTION
DENSITY vs NUMBER OF PASSES

NUMBER OF PASSES

1     2      3      4      5      6      7      8

DENSITY (lb/ft³)

135.0 136.0 137.0 138.0 139.0 140.0 141.1 142.0 143.0 144.0

NUMBER OF PASSES
Locations of nuclear readings are marked by contractor.
CONTROL STRIP

300 FEET

TAKE READINGS AT LEAST 1 FOOT FROM EDGE OF PAVEMENT
Using 5 roller passes
Core locations are marked for cutting.
Cores are cut...
...and carefully removed.
MINIMUM DENSITY REQUIREMENT

(Bulk Specific Gravity / Max Specific Gravity) * 100

(Table III-3)
### TABLE III-3 Density Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mixture Type</th>
<th>Min. Control Strip Density (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SM-9.5A, 12.5A</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-9.5D, 12.5D</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-9.5E, 12.5E</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM-19.0A</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM-19.0D</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BM-25.0</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The control strip density requirement is the percentage of theoretical maximum density at the job-mix formula as determined by Superpave Mix Design.
Nuclear Gauge

Calibrated
Same gauge used at Control Strip
QC Density Test Section

5000 FEET

TAKE READINGS AT LEAST 1 FOOT FROM EDGE OF PAVEMENT

Average of 10 readings (98 – 102% of control strip)

Density Readings 4 or 6 inches from the Joint
QC Density Test Section

Average of 10 readings (98 – 102% of control strip)
Density Readings 4 or 6 inches from the Joint

TAKE READINGS AT LEAST 1 FOOT FROM EDGE OF PAVEMENT

5000 FEET
Select one Test Section for VST

Lot 1 | Lot 2 | Lot 3 | Lot 4 | Lot 5

Contractor must cut 2 cores for VST at the direction of VDOT
VST Density Test Section

CUT 2 CORES

Referee Procedure - Cut 3 more Cores
use average of all 5 for final decision
Determine Limits

Lot 13  Lot 14  Lot 15  Lot 16  Lot 17

Preceding  Failing  After
Asphalt Quality Assurance Program

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