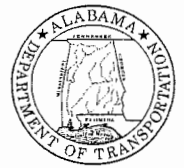




ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Bob Riley
Governor

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Transportation Director

June 6, 2003

MATERIALS AND TESTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY 3 - 03

TO: Division Engineers

FROM: Larry Lockett *Larry Lockett*
Materials and Tests Engineer

RE: Application Rate of Upper
Lift of Bituminous Binder Mix

Effective immediately, in an effort to afford paving contractors the opportunity to achieve optimum ride quality on new construction projects, the application rate of the upper lift of bituminous binder mix should be specified, when possible, at 225#/SY to 300#/SY.

When determining which rate to specify within the given range of 225#/SY to 300#/SY, consideration should be given to meeting the structural requirements of the project, as well as to the types, application rate, and number of lifts of bituminous plant mix materials above and below the upper lift of bituminous binder.

For example, there could be an open graded friction course and a bituminous wearing surface course placed above the upper lift of bituminous binder mix, or there could be just a bituminous wearing surface course, and the application rate of the bituminous wearing surface course could be 110#/SY, 125#/SY, 150#/SY, or 165#/SY. The bituminous plant mix material below the upper lift of bituminous binder mix could consist of both bituminous binder material and bituminous base course material, with each of these having a different structural contribution to the overall pavement structural requirements.

Materials reports for new construction projects have previously been submitted and approved wherein the application rate of the upper lift of bituminous binder mix is in excess of 300#/SY, with the rate typically being 350#/SY. Depending upon the plan development status of such projects, along with the proposed letting dates for the projects, consideration should be given to reducing the application rate of the upper lift of bituminous binder mix and making other adjustments as required to meet the pavement structural requirements on the individual projects.

To the extent practical, consideration should also be given to using an application rate of 225#/SY to 300#/SY for the upper lift of bituminous binder mix if used on resurfacing projects.

LL/GMB/kh

Cc: Mr. Mike Harper
Mr. Terry L. McDuffie
Mr. Don Arkie
Mr. John Lorentson
Division Construction Engineers
Division Materials Engineers
FHWA
File