

Design Standards Letter

Letter Number: **G-1960-27**

Letter Date: **12/05/1960**

Effective Date: **12/05/1960**

Section/Plan No.: **None**

Subject: **Commercial Mixtures Asphaltic Concrete**

Body

TO ALL DISTRICT, DIVISION AND URBAN ENGINEERS:

The new Standard Specifications provide for approved commercial mixtures of asphaltic concrete. If designated in the contract that approved commercial mixtures may be used, and the contractor desires to use such a mixture, he shall furnish the engineer a statement setting out the source and the job mix formula he proposes to use. If the proposed mixture and plant is approved by the engineer, the material delivered shall conform to the approved job mix formula, and shall be placed and compacted in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 43.

It has been brought to our attention that there may be occasions where commercial asphaltic concrete is used and density tests are not warranted. If density tests are not taken, this would seem to be a violation of the specifications which state that the "material...shall be placed and compacted" in accordance with the requirements of Section 43.

Section 43.4.5.2. states that "except as otherwise specified, all compacted mixtures shall have a density of not less than 98% of that obtained by the laboratory compaction of an identical mixture." It seems, therefore, that if we permit commercial asphaltic concrete and plan for its use in an area where density tests are not warranted, then we must specify a density requirement other than at least 98% of a laboratory compacted mixture.

Your attention is directed to this matter since the responsibility of deciding whether or not density tests should be taken must necessarily rest within the District. If it is considered that density tests are not warranted, a special provision must be prepared and included in the contract. We would suggest for such a special provision the statement that:

"If commercial mixtures of asphaltic concrete are used, the density requirement as specified in Section 43.4.5.2 will be waived and the contractor will not be

required to cut samples of the compacted mixture for any reason. In lieu of the 98% density requirement, the mixture shall be thoroughly compacted, and rolling shall be continued until there is no visible evidence of further appreciable consolidation."

If commercial mixtures of asphaltic concrete are planned for critical areas where density tests are considered justified, then the continuation of present practices will allow for density tests, and no special provision is necessary other than the statement that commercial asphaltic concrete will be permitted.

Kindly advise if these instructions are not entirely clear, or if you have any questions regarding this matter.

**C. C. Tevis
Engineer of Surveys and Plans**