

Design Standards Letter

Letter Number: **G-1995-09**

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Effective Date: **06/27/1995**

Section/Plan No.: **None**

Subject: **Use of Stone Mastic Asphalt Mixtures**

Body

This General Letter rescinds General Letter No. 10.

Based on the recent successful utilizations of Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) and the benefits expected by using an SMA as a surface wearing material, SMA mixtures should be used in lieu of limestone/porphyry and limestone/steel slag asphaltic concrete mixtures for interstates in the cities of St. Joseph, Springfield, St. Louis and Kansas City. The project limits should approximate the zone limits but need not be exact, depending on the project. The SMA mixtures should be used for all projects on interstates tentatively scheduled for October letting or later in these area.

Limestone/porphyry and limestone/steel slag asphaltic concrete mixes should still be used for all other roadways as specified in the Design Manual. Specifically, limestone/porphyry and limestone/steel slag asphaltic concrete mixes should be used as wearing surfaces for roadways that need higher friction properties, such as in high speed urban congested areas or where the wet to dry accident ratio for a project is 3:1 or greater. These are typically high load high traffic areas with a lot of intersections and turning limits.

It will be necessary to use the latest version of the special provision MRSP 92-06 for projects with SMA mixtures. The district should include in the index of the job special provisions the title "Stone Mastic Asphalt" with the notation "To be inserted by Design Division".

Revisions to the Design Manual will be forthcoming.

Please advise if you have questions concerning the above.

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