

# Design Standards Letter

**Letter Number: G-1996-06**

**Letter Date: 07/24/1996**

**Effective Date: 07/24/1996**

**Section/Plan No.: None**

**Subject: SHRP Performance Graded Asphalt Cement**

## Body

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This general letter rescinds General Letter No. 17, 1995.

To fulfill our agreement with the SHRP North-Central Asphalt Users/Producers Group and to further implement SHRP technology and a component of Superpave, performance graded (PG) asphalt cement should be specified on all projects to be let in October 1996 and thereafter. If possible, projects to be let prior to October 1996 should also be changed accordingly.

Performance graded asphalt cement has been in effect as part of the standard specifications since December 1995. Special provisions referring to the use of alternate asphalt cements will no longer apply. New bid items have been created for the PG asphalt cements. The following guidelines should be adhered to in specifying asphalt cements in bituminous mixtures:

1. Specify PG 58-34 or PG 64-28 for all medium duty/heavy duty pavement Sec 403 surface mixtures (including shoulders). Specifically for Type IC asphaltic concrete, stone mastic asphalt, limestone porphyry/limestone steel slag asphaltic concrete, and Superpave SP125 bituminous surface mixtures, use PG 58-34 on all routes north of Route 36 except for Route I-29 and I-35, and use PG 64-28 on Routes I-29 and I-35, Route 36, and all routes south of Route 36.

Note, some of the PG asphalt cements require additional modifiers to AC-20 to meet the required performance grade. To date this adds approximately \$85.00 per ton premium. It is anticipated that with increased usage and competition, this premium will decrease. We have already seen a drop from \$100+ to \$85 for PG asphalt cement in the past year.

2. For all other bituminous mixtures on medium duty and heavy duty pavements, specify PG 64-22.

Note, this performance grade is just another way of specifying AC-20 asphalt cement and does not require AC-20 asphalt cements to be modified. It does require using the PG asphalt

cement test from SHRP. No significant additional cost is anticipated with this change.

3. For all bituminous mixtures on light duty pavements, specify PG 58-22/AC-10 or PG 64-22/AC-20.

This provision will allow all suppliers to furnish asphalt cement for all light duty routes (estimated 56% of total asphalt cement) regardless of how they test their material.

4. The Materials Division will continue to recommend special PG asphalt cements for certain projects or special conditions, e.g., heavy/slow traffic, signalized intersections, extreme areas of the state, Superpave mixes, etc.

If there is a question of what asphalt cement grade should be specified on a project, request the district materials engineer to provide a recommendation.

Cost for using PG asphalt cement on 1996/1997 projects should be coordinated with the Office of Transportation Program Management for additional funding allocation.

pm/ph