

## Colorado Procedure 44-24

*Standard Method of Test for*

### **Bulk Specific Gravity and Percent Compaction of Compacted Bituminous Mixtures Using Saturated Surface-Dry Specimens**

(This procedure is based upon AASHTO T 166. AASHTO T 166 or any subsequent revisions may not be used in place of this procedure.)

#### **1. SCOPE**

- 1.1 These test methods cover the determination of bulk specific gravity of specimens of compacted bituminous mixtures as defined in ASTM E 1547, Terminology Relating to Industrial and Specialty Chemicals.
- 1.2 The bulk specific gravity of the compacted bituminous mixtures may be used in calculating the unit weight of the mixture.

#### **2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

##### 2.1 *AASHTO Standards:*

- M 231 Weighing Devices Used in the Testing of Materials

##### 2.2 *ASTM Standards:*

- D 2726 Test Method for Bulk Specific Gravity and Density of Non-Absorptive Compacted Bituminous Mixtures
- E 1547 Terminology Relating to Industrial and Specialty Chemicals

##### 2.3 *Colorado Procedures:*

- CP 51 Determining the Maximum Specific Gravity of HMA
- CP-L 5115 Preparing & Determining the Density of Bituminous Mixture Test Specimens Compacted by the Superpave Gyrotory Compactor

#### **3. SIGNIFICANCE AND USE**

- 3.1 This procedure covers and describes two test methods for determining bulk specific gravity to calculate the percent relative compaction of Hot Mix Asphalt.

#### **4. TERMINOLOGY**

##### 4.1 Definitions:

- 4.1.1 *Constant Mass* – The mass at which further drying at either temperature as noted in Subsection 10.4 for two hours does not alter the mass.

## 5. TEST SPECIMENS

- 5.1 Test specimens may be either laboratory-molded bituminous mixtures or from the bituminous pavements. The mixtures may be surface or wearing course, or leveling course.
- 5.2 Size of Specimens--It is recommended (1) that the diameter of cylindrically molded or cored specimens, or the length of the sides of sawed specimens, be at least equal to four times the maximum size of the aggregate; and (2) that the thickness of specimens is at least one and one-half times the maximum size of the aggregate.
- 5.3 Pavement specimens shall be taken from pavements with a core drill, a diamond or Carborundum saw, or by other suitable means.
- 5.4 Care shall be taken to avoid distortion, bending, or cracking of specimens during and after the removal from pavement or mold. Specimens shall be stored in a safe, cool place.
- 5.5 Specimens shall be free from foreign materials such as seal coat, tack coat, foundation material, soil, paper, or foil.
- 5.6 If desired, specimens may be separated from other pavement layers by sawing or other suitable means.

## 6. APPARATUS

- 6.1 *Balance* – Conforming to the requirements of AASHTO M 231, for the class of balance required for the principle sample weight of the sample being tested. The balance shall be equipped with suitable suspension apparatus and holder to permit weighing the specimen while suspended from the center of scale pan or balance.
- 6.2 *Suspension Apparatus* -- Wire suspending the container shall be the smallest practical size at the point where it penetrates the water's surface to minimize any possible effects of a variable immersed length. The suspension apparatus shall be constructed to enable the container to be immersed to a depth sufficient to cover it and the test sample during weighing without contacting the bottom of the water bath.
- 6.3 *Water Bath* -- For immersing the specimen in the water while suspended under the balance, equipped with an overflow outlet for maintaining a constant water level.
- 6.4 *Damp Towel* -- Flannel or terry cloth towel.
- 6.5 *Oven* – If using Method B (Rapid Test), a forced draft oven capable of maintaining  $230^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 9^{\circ}$  ( $110^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}$ ).
- 6.6 *CoreDry<sup>TM</sup>* – If using Method C (CoreDry<sup>TM</sup> Test), a CoreDry unit from Instrotek® Inc.

**METHOD A****7. PROCEDURE**

- 7.1 Method A shall be used for laboratory compacted specimens only.
- 7.2 Laboratory compacted specimens, which have not been exposed to moisture, do not require additional drying. Cool the specimen to room temperature at  $77^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 9^{\circ}$  ( $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}$ ). Samples must not feel warm to the touch. Record the dry mass A. If laboratory compacted specimens are wetted before the dry mass is determined, dry them as specified in Subsection 10.4 once the immersed mass and surface-dry mass have been determined. Immerse each specimen in the water at  $77^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 1.8^{\circ}$  ( $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}$ ) for  $4 \pm 1$  minute and record the immersed mass, C. Remove the specimen from the water, damp-dry the specimen by blotting it as quickly as possible with a flannel cloth or terry cloth towel which has been thoroughly wetted and wrung out, then immediately determine the surface-dry mass, B. The objective of blotting is to remove all of the surface water without losing any water that has been absorbed into the sample. Any water that seeps from the specimen during the weighing operation is considered part of the saturated specimen.

**Note 1:** If desired, the sequence of testing operations may be changed to expedite the test results. For example, first, the immersed mass (C) can be taken, then the surface-dry mass (B), and finally the dry mass (A).

**8. CALCULATIONS**

- 8.1.1 Calculate the bulk specific gravity of the specimens as follows (round and report the value to the nearest three decimal places):

$$\text{Bulk Specific Gravity} = \frac{A}{(B - C)}$$

Where:

A = Mass (in grams) of sample in air,  
 B = Mass (in grams) of surface-dry specimen in air,  
 C = Mass (in grams) of sample in water.

- 8.2 Calculate the percent of water absorbed by the specimen (on a volume basis) as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Percent Water}}{\text{Absorbed by Volume}} = \frac{(B - A)}{(B - C)} \times 100$$

**9. RECORD**

- 9.1 No CDOT Form, record on your worksheet.

**METHOD B (RAPID TEST)****10. PROCEDURE**

- 10.1 Method B shall be used for pavement cores.
- 10.2 This procedure can be used for testing specimens, which are not required to be saved, and which contain substantial amounts of moisture. Specimens obtained by coring or sawing can be tested the same day by this method. Specimens obtained by coring or sawing shall be tested using Method B or C and shall not be tested using Method A.
- 10.3 The testing procedure to determine the immersed mass (C) and the surface dry mass (B) shall be the same as given in Section 7. The dry mass (A) of the specimen is determined last, as per Subsection 10.4.
- 10.4 Determine and record the weight of a large flat bottom drying pan and place the weighed specimen into the pan. For Forced Draft Ovens, place the pan and specimen in a  $230^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 9^{\circ}$  ( $110^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}$ ) oven. For 5½ in. (140 mm) the diameter or larger cores, or for porous or wet cores, leave the specimen in the oven until it can be easily separated into pieces not larger than 2 in. (50 mm) in diameter. Use extreme caution not to lose any portion of the original specimen while separating it. Replace the separated specimen in the oven. Document the start time. Dry all of the specimen(s) for 3 hours minimum and determine the weight at that time, (record the time). After an additional 2 hours of drying determine the weight at the time, (record the time if needed). The drying of the specimen can be stopped at this minimum of 5 total hours if a constant mass is reached. Continue the drying and weighing at 2-hour intervals until the constant mass is reached, up to the 24-hour maximum period. Determine the final weight of the heated specimens and use this weight as the dry mass A in the equation in Subsection 8.1.

**METHOD C (COREDRY™ TEST)****11. PROCEDURE**

- 11.1 Method C may be used for pavement cores in place of Method B.
- 11.2 This procedure can be used for testing specimens, which can be saved, and which contain substantial amounts of moisture. Specimens obtained by coring or sawing can be tested the same day by this method. Specimens obtained by coring or sawing shall be tested using Method B or C and shall not be tested using Method A.
- 11.3 The testing procedure to determine the immersed mass (C) and the surface dry mass (B) shall be the same as given in Section 7. The dry mass (A) of the specimen is determined last, as per Subsection 11.4.

**Note 2:** If desired, the sequence of testing operations may be changed to expedite the test results. For example, first, the dry mass (A) can be taken, then the immersed mass (C), and finally the surface-dry mass (B).

- 11.4 Turn CoreDry™ to ON position. Allow the CoreDry™ to warm up and go through preparation cycles until the “System Ready” prompt appears. Allow cores to warm to room temperature and towel dry the surface of cores if there is free standing moisture on the surface. Place core on its side on wire mesh in the vacuum chamber. Clean any ice or moisture out of the moisture trap with a lint-free cloth. Place lids on the vacuum chamber and moisture trap and press START. CoreDry™ will cycle until drying is complete and the chamber will pressurize so the lid can be freely removed. If moisture is visible on the core surface clean the moisture trap and then repeat the drying process. Determine the final weight of the dried specimens and use this weight as the dry mass A in the equation in Subsection 8.1.

## 12. CALCULATIONS

- 12.1 Calculate the bulk-specific gravity as shown in Subsection 8.1.

- 12.2 Calculate percent relative compaction as follows:

$$\text{Percent Relative Compaction} = \frac{\text{Bulk Sp. Gravity}}{\text{Max. Sp. Gravity}} \times 100$$

**Note 3:** Max. Sp. Gr. information is in CP 51.

- 12.3 Calculate the percent air voids as follows:

$$\text{Air Voids} = 100 - \text{Percent Relative Compaction}$$

- 12.4 Calculate the VMA as follows:

$$\text{VMA} = 100 - \frac{G_{mb}P_s}{G_{sb}}$$

Where:

VMA = Voids in mineral aggregate in percent of bulk volume,

$G_{sb}$  = Bulk specific gravity of the aggregate,

$G_{mb}$  = Bulk specific gravity of compacted mix,

$P_s$  = Aggregate, percent by total weight of the mix.

## 13. PRECISION

- 13.1 Duplicate specific gravity results by the same operator should not be considered suspect unless they differ more than 0.020.

## 14. RECORD

- 14.1 CDOT Form 582 is to be used as applicable.

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