

THIS MEMO IS EXPIRED

February 22, 2000

MEMORANDUM NO: 08-00

**TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
DISTRICT MATERIALS ENGINEERS
DISTRICT BITUMINOUS ENGINEERS**

FROM: Greg A. Xanders, State Construction Engineer

COPIES: W. H. Albaugh, T. O. Malerk, B. T. Dietrich, G. C. Page, J. A. Musselman, Jim Warren (ACAF), Charles Goodman, Archie Montgomery, G. L. Schiess (FHWA), Area Construction Engineers

SUBJECT: ASPHALT PLANT TECHNICIANS PERFORM THE MAXIMUM SPECIFIC GRAVITY (Rice) TEST

The maximum specific gravity (Gmm) is one of the most important characteristics used to judge the mix as produced, and subsequently, as placed and compacted. It is used as the basis for air voids calculation at the asphalt plant and is also the target value for density on the roadway.

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In compliance with the requirements of Superpave Specifications Section 334-5.4.1.2, the Engineer will run the maximum specific gravity (Rice) Tests for verification in order to determine the acceptability of the Contractor's test results. In some Districts, the District Materials Labs conduct the tests, but as multiple Superpave projects are often underway simultaneously, it has made timely verification tests at the District Materials Lab very difficult.

In order to speed-up the verification process and reduce the variability, all the acceptance technicians at the asphalt plant are required to complete the training for performing the Rice test by May 31, 2000. After this date, the acceptance technicians shall perform the Rice test on a daily basis and verify the Contractor's results in accordance with the specification requirements.

The technicians can take this training from (1) the District Materials Lab, or (2) the Rice Training Class in the State Materials Office, or (3) the QC 2000 asphalt Plant Level L-1 Course. Please arrange to have your asphalt plant technicians attend one of the above training classes to complete this required training. If you have any questions, please call David Wang at (805) 414-4152 or (SC) 994-4152.

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