



Florida Department of Transportation

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**** EXPIRED ****

July 17, 2008

MATERIALS BULLETIN NO. 08-08

DCE MEMORANDUM NO. 10-08

(FHWA Approved 7/16/08)

**TO: DISTRICT MATERIALS RESEARCH ENGINEERS
DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS**

FROM: Thomas O. Malerk, P.E., Director, Office of Materials
Brian A. Blanchard, P.E., Director, Office of Construction

COPIES: Bob Burluson, Jim Warren, Jim Musselman, David Sadler, Greg Williams (FHWA)

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR CHANGING THE BINDER TYPE IN FRICTION COURSE
MIXTURES FROM ASPHALT RUBBER TO POLYMER MODIFIED**

There have been requests by Contractors and District personnel to change the binder type in friction course mixtures on projects from asphalt rubber (ARB-5 / ARB-12) to polymer modified (PG76-22). Department policy is to use asphalt rubber when called for in the contract documents unless there is a justifiable reason to change. All changes are to be approved by the Chief Engineer. Following is a list of potential conditions, in which one or more would justify a change from asphalt rubber to polymer modified:

- There is a history of severe rutting at the project location.
- The structural layer contains polymer modified binder.

The following steps are outlined as the process to be followed for obtaining approval to change from asphalt rubber modified (ARB-5/ARB-12) to polymer modified (PG 76-22):

1. The Contractor shall provide a letter to the Project Administrator with the appropriate justification for the substitution of polymer instead of asphalt rubber. The letter needs to include specific engineering justification as to the need for the change. In the event that the Department initiates the request, the Project Administrator shall write-up the appropriate justification for the change.
2. The Project Administrator will forward the request (via email) to the District Materials Office and the District Construction Office.
3. The District Materials Office shall:
 - a. Review the proposed change and approve / disapprove as appropriate.
 - b. Coordinate approval (via email) of the proposed change with the State Materials Office.
 - c. Forward approval (via email) of the proposal to the District Construction Office.

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4. The District Construction Office, upon receiving approval from the District Materials Office, shall:
 - a. Review the proposed change and approve / disapprove as appropriate.
 - b. Forward approval (via email) of the proposal to the State Construction Office.
5. The State Construction Office shall:
 - a. Review the proposed change and approve/disapprove as appropriate.
 - b. Forward approval (via email) of the proposal to the Chief Engineer.
6. In the event that the proposal is rejected, the proposal shall be returned to the Project Administrator.

No additional compensation will be provided should the change be approved.

For any questions concerning this matter, please contact Jim Musselman, (352) 955-2905, Pat Upshaw, (352) 955-2906, or Greg Sholar, (352) 955-2920, at the State Materials Office.

TM/BB/jm