

3200603 HOT MIX ASPHALT – PLANT METHODS AND EQUIPMENT
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

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Comments: (5-30-13)

I have a question about allowing the Contractor to heat the warm mix asphalt (WMA) to 330F. Are we concerned about the constructability of those first five loads? I would think, depending on the binder, the increase in temperature would create a more viscous pavement, potentially reducing the ability to reach compaction. I'm just curious as to what ramifications heating the WMA to that temperature will have. Would all binders be 'immune' to the heat increase, or would some perform better than others? Thanks.

Response: This is a good point and it is likely that different WMA additives will perform differently at higher temperatures. This specification change came at the request of Industry and the WMA suppliers because if the mix is already at a reduced temperature and then it is transferred through cool paving equipment, it may result in a mat that is too cool for proper compaction. The option to run the WMA mix hotter is the Contractor's choice and they will be responsible for the outcome. They may choose to heat the mix to only 290°F or 300°F. The State Materials Office will monitor this over time and if there are problems, the specification will be modified. Thank you for the comment.
No changes made.

Carl Dempsey
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Comments: (5-30-13)

Not only does the paver need heating but also the mixing plant equipment as well. I feel that this change to the specification should be for all warm mix production and not just the first five loads of the production day. There will be instances where the paver needs replacing due to breakdowns or the plant and paver are down for an extended period of time for various reasons (rain, breakdowns, etc). The only downside to producing warm mix as hot mix is that the Contractor does not receive the benefits that the warm mix has to offer.

Response: This is an excellent comment and will be brought before the FDOT/Industry specification committee for the next specification workbook revision. This proposed change cannot be implemented with these specification revisions because it would not have gone through the review process. Thank you for your comment.
No changes made.

Timothy Carter
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Comments: (6-6-13)

In regard to 334000-Spec 320 concerning the first five loads of Warm Mix being heated to Hot Mix temperatures, our comments would be that primarily the paver screed has independent heating capabilities already so heating the paver with hot mix wouldn't seem to be beneficial. Any loss of heat upon contact with a fresh paver would be negligible and nonetheless absorbed by the allowable temperature range. In addition, at the plant, one of the things industry has complained about has been the difficulties in switching back and forth between hot mix and warm mix. Therefore executing a portion of a production run one way and the remainder another way would only add to those concerns. It has been our experience that ideally, when warm mix is produced within its optimum temperature range and placed per existing industry standards, all other things being equal, there should be no issues. The bottom line is that we feel there is no real advantage gained by producing the first five loads of warm mix at a hot mix temperature. Thank you for requesting our participation in this process.

Response: This specification change came at the request of Industry and the WMA suppliers because if the mix is already at a reduced temperature and then it is transferred through cool paving equipment, it may result in a mat that is too cool for proper compaction. The option to run the WMA mix hotter is the Contractor's choice and they will be responsible for the outcome. They may choose to heat the mix to only 290°F or 300°F. The State Materials Office will monitor this over time and if there are problems, the specification will be modified. Thank you for the comment.
No changes made.
