REDUCING SAMPLES OF HOT MIX ASPHALT (HMA) TO TESTING SIZE FOP FOR AASHTO R 47 (09)

Significance

Samples of bituminous paving mixes taken in accordance with the FOP for AASHTO T 168 are composites and typically large in size. Materials sampled in the field need to be reduced to appropriate sizes for testing. As a general rule, field samples should be of a size that splitting once will result in the required test sample size. It is extremely important that the procedure used to reduce the field sample not modify the material properties.

Scope

This procedure covers sample reduction of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) to testing size. The reduced portion is to be representative of the original sample.

Apparatus

- Thermostatically controlled oven capable of maintaining a temperature of at least 110°C (230°F) or high enough to heat the material to a pliable condition for splitting.
- Non-contact temperature measuring device.
- Metal spatulas, trowels, metal straightedges, and/or drywall taping knives; for removing HMA samples from the quartering device, cleaning surfaces used for splitting, etc.
- Square-tipped, flat-bottom scoop, shovel or trowel for mixing HMA prior to quartering.
- Miscellaneous equipment including hot plate, non-asbestos heat-resistant gloves or mittens, pans, buckets, and cans.
- Sheeting: Non-stick heavy paper, heat-resistant plastic, or other material as approved by the agency.
- Agency-approved release agent, free of solvent or petroleum-based material that could affect asphalt binder.
- Mechanical Splitter Type A (Quartermaster): having four equal-width chutes discharging into four appropriately sized sample receptacles. Splitter is to be equipped with a receiving hopper that will hold the sample until the release lever is activated with four sample receptacles of sufficient capacity to accommodate the reduced portion of the HMA sample from the mechanical splitter. Refer to AASHTO R 47, Figures 1 through 3, for configuration and required dimensions of the mechanical splitter.
- Mechanical Splitter Type B (Riffle): having a minimum of eight equal-width chutes discharging alternately to each side with a minimum chute width of at least 50% larger than the largest particle size. A hopper or straight-edged pan with a width equal to or slightly smaller than the assembly of chutes in the riffle splitter to permit uniform discharge of the HMA through the chutes without segregation or loss of material. Sample

receptacles of sufficient width and capacity to receive the reduced portions of HMA from the riffle splitter without loss of material.

- Quartering Template: formed in the shape of a cross with equal length sides at right angles to each other. Template shall be manufactured of metal that will withstand heat and use without deforming. The sides of the quartering template should be sized so that the length exceeds the diameter of the flattened cone of HMA by an amount allowing complete separation of the quartered sample. Height of the sides must exceed the thickness of the flattened cone of HMA.
- Non-stick mixing surface that is hard, heat-resistant, clean, level, and large enough to permit HMA samples to be mixed without contamination or loss of material.

Sampling

Obtain samples according to the FOP for AASHTO T 168.

Sample Preparation

The sample must be warm enough to separate. If not, warm in an oven until it is sufficiently soft to mix and separate easily. Do not exceed either the temperature or time limits specified in the test method(s) to be performed.

Selection of Procedure (Method)

Refer to agency requirements when determining the appropriate method(s) of sample reduction. In general, the selection of a particular method to reduce a sample depends on the initial size of the sample vs. the size of the sample needed for the specific test to be performed. It is recommended that, for large amounts of material, the initial reduction be performed using a mechanical splitter. This decreases the time needed for reduction and minimizes temperature loss. Further reduction of the remaining HMA may be performed by a combination of the following methods, as approved by the agency. The methods for reduction are:

- Mechanical Splitter Method
  - Type A (Quartermaster)
  - Type B (Riffle Splitter)
- Quartering Method
  - Full Quartering
  - By Apex
- Incremental (Loaf) Method

Procedure

Mechanical Splitter Type A (Quartermaster)

1. Clean the splitter and apply a light coating of approved release agent to the surfaces that will contact HMA.
2. Close and secure hopper gates.
3. Place the four sample receptacles in the splitter so that there is no loss of material.
4. Remove the sample from the agency-approved container(s) and place in the mechanical splitter hopper. Avoid segregation, loss of HMA or the accidental addition of foreign material.
5. Release the handle, allowing the HMA to drop through the divider chutes and discharge into the four receptacles.
6. Any HMA that is retained on the surface of the splitter shall be removed and placed into the appropriate receptacle.
7. Close and secure the hopper gates.
8. Reduce the remaining HMA as needed by this method or a combination of the following methods as approved by the agency.
9. Combine the material contained in the receptacles from opposite corners and repeat the splitting process until an appropriate sample size is obtained.
10. Retain and properly identify the remaining unused portion of the HMA sample for further testing if required by the agency.

Mechanical Splitter Type B (Riffle)

1. If heating of the testing equipment is desired, it shall be heated to a temperature not to exceed 110 ºC (230ºF).
2. Clean the splitter and apply a light coating of approved release agent to the surfaces that will come in contact with HMA (hopper or straight-edged pan, chutes, receptacles).
3. Place two empty receptacles under the splitter.
4. Carefully empty the HMA from the agency-approved container(s) into the hopper or straight-edged pan without loss of material. Uniformly distribute from side to side of the hopper or pan.
5. Discharge the HMA at a uniform rate, allowing it to flow freely through the chutes.
6. Any HMA that is retained on the surface of the splitter shall be removed and placed into the appropriate receptacle.
7. Reduce the remaining HMA as needed by this method or a combination of the following methods as approved by the agency.
8. Using one of the two receptacles containing HMA, repeat the reduction process until the HMA contained in one of the two receptacles is the appropriate size for the required test.

9. After each split, remember to clean the splitter hopper and chute surfaces if needed.
10. Retain and properly identify the remaining unused HMA sample for further testing if required by the agency.

Quartering Method

1. Heat all of the testing equipment (quartering template, scoop or trowel) to a temperature not to exceed 110 ºC (230ºF).
2. If needed, apply a light coating of release agent to quartering template.
3. Dump the sample from the agency approved container(s) into a conical pile on a hard, "non-stick", clean, level surface where there will be neither a loss of material nor the accidental addition of foreign material. The surface can be made non-stick by the application of an approved asphalt release agent, or sheeting.
4. Mix the material thoroughly by turning the entire sample over a minimum of four times with a flat-bottom scoop; or by alternately lifting each corner of the sheeting and pulling it over the sample diagonally toward the opposite corner, causing the material to be rolled. Create a conical pile by either depositing each scoop or shovelful of the last turning on top of the preceding one, or lifting both opposite corners.
5. Flatten the conical pile to a uniform diameter and thickness where the diameter is four to eight times the thickness. Make a visual observation to ensure that the material is homogeneous.
6. Divide the flattened cone into four equal quarters using the quartering template. Press the template down until it is in complete contact with the surface on which the sample has been placed, assuring complete separation.

***Note 1**: Straightedges may be used in lieu of the quartering device to completely separate the material in approximately equal quarters.*

7. Reduce the sample by quartering the sample completely or by removing the sample from the apex.

8. Full Quartering

   8a. Remove two diagonally opposite quarters, including all of the fine material.

   8b. Remove the quartering template and combine the remaining quarters, again forming a conical pile.

   8c. Repeat steps 4, 5, 6, 8a, & 8b until a sample of the required size has been obtained. The final sample must consist of the two remaining diagonally opposite quarters.

   8d. Retain and properly identify the remaining unused portion of the HMA sample for further testing if required by the agency.

9. By Apex

   9a. Using a straightedge, slice through a quarter of the HMA from the center point to the outer edge of the quarter.

9b. Pull or drag the material from the quarter, holding one edge of the straightedge in contact with quartering device.

9c. Remove an equal portion form the opposite quarter and combine these increments to create the required sample size.

Note 2: *Two straightedges may be used in lieu of the quartering device.*

9d. Continue using the apex method with the unused portion of the HMA until samples have been obtained for all required tests.

9e. Retain and properly identify the remaining unused portion of the HMA sample for further testing if required by the agency.

Incremental Method (Loaf)

1. Cover a hard, clean, level surface with sheeting. This surface shall be large enough that there will be neither a loss of material nor the accidental addition of foreign material.
2. Place the sample from the agency approved container(s) into a conical pile on that surface.
3. Mix the material thoroughly by turning the entire sample over a minimum of four times with a flat-bottom scoop; or by alternately lifting each corner of the sheeting and pulling it over the sample diagonally toward the opposite corner, causing the material to be rolled. Create a conical pile by either depositing each scoop or shovelful of the last turning on top of the preceding one, or lifting both opposite corners.
4. Grasp the sheeting and roll the conical pile into a cylinder (loaf), then flatten the top. Make a visual observation to determine that the material is homogenous.
5. Pull the sheeting so at least ¼ of the length of the loaf is off the edge of the counter. Allow this material to drop into a container to be saved. As an alternate, using a straightedge, slice off approximately ¼ of the length of the loaf and place in a container to be saved.
6. Pull material (loaf) off the edge of the counter and drop into an appropriate size sample pan or container for the test to be performed. Continue removing material from the loaf until the proper size sample has been acquired. As an alternate, using a straightedge, slice off an appropriate size sample from the length of the loaf and place in a sample pan or container.
7. Repeat step 6 until all the samples for testing have been obtained.

Note 3: *When reducing the sample to test size it is advisable to take several small increments, determining the mass each time until the proper minimum size is achieved. Unless the sample size is grossly in excess of the minimum or exceeds the maximum test size, use the sample as reduced for the test.*

Sample Identification

1. Identify the sample as required by the agency.

2. Samples shall be submitted in agency approved containers and secured to prevent contamination and spillage.

PERFORMANCE EXAM CHECKLIST

REDUCING SAMPLES OF HOT MIX ASPHALT (HMA) TO TESTING SIZE FOP FOR AASHTO R 47

Participant Name _____ Exam Date _____

Record the symbols "P" for passing or "F" for failing on each step of the checklist.

Procedure Element	Trial 1	Trial 2
1. Sample made soft enough to separate easily without exceeding temperature limits?	_____	_____
Mechanical Splitter Method Type A (Quartermaster)		
2. Splitter cleaned and surfaces coated with release agent?	_____	_____
3. Hopper closed and receptacles in place?	_____	_____
4. Sample placed into hopper without segregation or loss of material?	_____	_____
5. Hopper handle released allowing the HMA to uniformly flow into receptacles?	_____	_____
6. Splitter surfaces cleaned of all retained HMA, allowing it to fall into appropriate receptacles?	_____	_____
7. Further reduction with the quartermaster:		
a. Material in receptacles from opposite corners combined?	_____	_____
b. Splitting process repeated until appropriate sample size is obtained?	_____	_____
8. Remaining HMA stored in suitable container and properly labeled?	_____	_____
Mechanical Splitter Method Type B (Riffle)		
9. Splitting apparatus and tools preheated without exceeding 110ºC (230ºF)?	_____	_____
10. Splitter cleaned and surfaces coated with release agent?	_____	_____
11. Two empty receptacles placed under splitter?	_____	_____
12. Sample placed in hopper or straight edged pan without loss of material and uniformly distributed from side to side?	_____	_____
12. Material discharged across chute assembly at controlled rate allowing free flow of HMA through chutes?	_____	_____
13. Splitter surfaces cleaned of all retained HMA allowing it to fall into appropriate receptacles?	_____	_____

OVER

Procedure Element	**Trial 1**	**Trial 2**
14. Further reduction with the riffle splitter:		
a. Material from one receptacle discharged across chute assembly at controlled rate, allowing free flow of HMA through chutes?	_____	_____
b. Splitting process continued until appropriate sample size obtained, with splitter surfaces cleaned of all retained HMA after every split?	_____	_____
15. Remaining unused HMA stored in suitable container, properly labeled?	_____	_____
Quartering Method		
16. Testing equipment preheated to a temperature not to exceed 110 ºC (230ºF)?	_____	_____
17. Sample placed in a conical pile on either a hard, non-stick, heat-resistant splitting surface such as metal or sheeting?	_____	_____
18. Sample mixed by turning the entire sample over a minimum of 4 times?	_____	_____
19. Conical pile formed and then flattened uniformly to diameter equal to about 4 to 8 times thickness?	_____	_____
20. Sample divided into 4 equal portions either with a metal quartering template or straightedges such as drywall taping knives?	_____	_____
21. Reduction by Full Quartering:		
a. Two diagonally opposite quarters removed and returned to sample container?	_____	_____
b. Two other diagonally opposite quarters combined and process continued until appropriate sample size has been achieved?	_____	_____
22. Reduction by Apex:		
a. Using two straightedges or a splitting device and one straightedge, was one of the quarters split from apex to outer edge of material?	_____	_____
b. Similar amount of material taken from opposite quarter?	_____	_____
c. Increments combined to produce appropriate sample size?	_____	_____
23. Remaining unused HMA stored in suitable container, properly labeled?	_____	_____
Incremental (Loaf) Method		
24. Sample placed on hard, non-stick, heat-resistant splitting surface covered with sheeting?	_____	_____
25. Sample mixed by turning the entire sample over a minimum of 4 times?	_____	_____
26. Conical pile formed?	_____	_____
27. HMA rolled into loaf and then flattened?	_____	_____

OVER

Procedure Element	**Trial 1**	**Trial 2**
28. The first quarter of the loaf removed by slicing off or dropping off edge of counter and set aside?	_____	_____
29. Proper sample size sliced off or dropped off edge of counter into sample container?	_____	_____
30. Process continued until all samples are obtained?	_____	_____
31. All remaining unused HMA stored in suitable container, properly labeled?	_____	_____

Comments: First attempt: Pass ☐ Fail ☐ Second attempt: Pass ☐ Fail ☐

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Examiner Signature _____ WAQTC #:_____