

Memorandum

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Be energy efficient!*

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction
DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEFS, Structure Construction
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
RESIDENT ENGINEERS

Date: November 21, 2006

File: Division of Construction
CPD 06-11

From: ROBERT PIEFLOW
for Chief
Division of Construction



Subject: Performance Graded Polymer Modified Asphalt

This directive addresses contracts that have a bid opening date prior to January 1, 2007. It provides the contractor with the option to replace contract specified Performance Based Asphalt Binder (PBA) with Performance Grade Polymer Modified Asphalt Binder (PG Polymer Modified). This is the second phase of the PG implementation involving polymer modified asphalt binder. The first phase of the PG implementation of unmodified binder began January 1, 2006.

Existing Procedure

Caltrans contract special provisions and Amendments to Section 92, "Asphalts," of the *Standard Specifications* (Attachment 1) provide specifications for asphalt based on the PBA classification system.

Transition Period Procedure

For contracts with a bid opening date prior to January 1, 2007, the contractor can continue to use the PBA paving asphalt specified in the contract until the completion of the contract or the contractor can request to substitute a PG Polymer Modified asphalt for the PBA asphalt.

When the contractor requests to substitute the PG Polymer Modified asphalt for the PBA asphalt, the resident engineer must determine if the PG Polymer Modified paving asphalt is appropriate for the project. The Division of Design guidelines, "Selection of Asphalt Binder Grade" (Attachment 2), recommend PG Polymer Modified asphalt grade based on climatic region. The resident engineer must obtain concurrence from the district materials engineer for the change from PBA asphalt to PG Polymer Modified asphalt. A change from PBA asphalt to PG Polymer Modified asphalt will not be considered as a change in source, and no new mix-design will be required.

When substituting the PG Polymer Modified asphalt for PBA asphalt the contractor may request a new mix design or test strip, or both. At the request of the contractor, Caltrans will verify the new mix design and allow for a new nuclear gage test strip at no cost to the contractor.

There should be no cost or credit to the state for implementing the contractor initiated change order. A contract change order of this type will not require approval from the Division of Construction and may be processed in the district unless the change results in additional costs. If Caltrans determines that a different grade PG Polymer Modified asphalt is needed than the PG Polymer Modified asphalt that would have met the original contract then additional costs could occur. Changes requested by the contractor that result in additional costs must receive the approval of the Division of Construction.

Prior approval for this contract change order was granted by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on September 21, 2006, for no cost change for substituting PG Polymer Modified asphalt for PBA asphalt.

A contractor's requested change from PBA asphalt to PG Polymer Modified asphalt will be completed with a contract change order that includes the following documents:

1. "Contract Change Order Memorandum," Form CEM-4903 (Attachment 3, Sample Contract Change Order Memorandum)
2. A contractor initiated "Contract Change Order," Form CEM-4900 (Attachment 4, Sample Contract Change Order) that contains amendments to Section 92, "Asphalts," of the *Standard Specifications*
3. "Record of Blanket Prior Approval for Major Contract Change Order," FHWA Form CA-358(c) (Attachment 5) signed by Jason Dietz, FHWA.

Contact Terrie Bressette, Chief, Office of Flexible Pavement at (916) 227-7303 with your questions about the implementation of PG Polymer Modified asphalt.

Attachments:

1. Amendments to Section 92, "Asphalts," of the *Standard Specifications*
2. Selection of Asphalt Binder Grade
3. Sample Contract Change Order Memorandum – PG Polymer Modified Asphalt
4. Sample Contract Change Order – PG Polymer Modified Asphalt
5. Record of Blanket Prior Approval for Major Contract Change Order