COMPACTION AND TESTING OF BITUMINOUS MIXTURES UTILIZING FOUR INCH MARSHALL APPARATUS

(A Modification of AASHTO T 245)

1. SCOPE

1.1 This method covers the procedure for compacting and testing bituminous mixtures utilizing four inch Marshall apparatus.

1.2 This procedure is used for bituminous mixtures with a mix design gradation target of at least 85% passing the 3/4 inch sieve.

1.3 This test method may involve hazardous material, operations, or equipment. This test method does not purport to address all of the safety concerns associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of any regulatory limitations prior to use.

1.4 See Appendix A1 of the Materials Testing Manual for information regarding the procedure to be used for rounding numbers to the required degree of accuracy.

2. APPARATUS

2.1 Requirements for the frequency of equipment calibration and verification are found in Appendix A3 of the Materials Testing Manual.

2.2 Compaction Mold Assembly 4 inch diameter cylindrical mold, baseplate, and extension collar constructed of steel and conforming to the requirements of Figure 1. (Three compaction mold assemblies are normally utilized.)

2.3 Specimen Extruding Device - Extrusion jack or press for extruding specimens from molds.

2.4 Compaction Hammer:

2.4.1 The compaction hammer shall either be a mechanical or hand compaction hammer having a flat, circular tamping face with a nominal diameter of (3-7/8 inches), and a (10 ± 1/4 pound) sliding weight with a free fall of (18 ± 1/2 inches).

2.4.2 Compaction hammers must be monitored through the ADOT proficiency sample program. To be qualified, compaction hammers must produce specimens with an average density of no greater than ± 1.0 lb./cu. ft. from the average bulk density for the most recent set of proficiency samples. If two samples are required for the proficiency samples, both of the bulk density sets must meet the ± 1.0 lb./cu. ft. criteria, if not, the hammer is not qualified.

2.4.3 As an alternate to qualifying a compaction hammer through the proficiency sample program, a compaction hammer may be qualified by correlating with a hammer which has been approved through comparison with proficiency sample results. When qualified in this manner, results must be no greater than ± 0.5 lb./cu. ft.

2.4.4 Hammers which have had adjustments or repairs made to them after being qualified, must be requalified by correlating with another qualified hammer and yield results within ± 0.5 lb./cu. ft.

Note: Marshall compaction equipment can go out of calibration at any time, and each laboratory is encouraged to establish a method of ensuring that their equipment remains in calibration. Alternate methods that can be used include regular comparisons with other approved hammers or compaction of samples which have a known density.

2.4.5 Hammers which do not meet the above requirements may be adjusted by modifying the weight, or the height of fall, within the given criteria; by adjusting the number of blows a maximum of ± 10 from the specified 75 blows; or by a combination of adjustments to weight, height of fall, or number of blows.

2.4.6 Should a compacton pedestal be moved or replaced, the compaction hammer(s) shall be requalified.

2.5 Compaction pedestal - The compaction pedestal shall consist of a 8" x 8" x 18" wooden post capped with a 12" x 12" x 1" steel plate. The steel cap shall be firmly fastened to the post. The wooden post shall have a dry weight of 42 to 48 lbs./cu. ft. and shall rest squarely on, and be firmly secured to, a solid concrete slab. The pedestal assembly shall be installed so that the post is plumb and the cap is level.

2.6 Specimen Mold Holder - Mounted on the compaction pedestal so as to center the compaction mold over the center of the post. It shall hold the compaction mold, collar, and base plate securely in position during compaction of specimen.

2.7 Oven for heating bituminous mixtures and specimen mold assemblies at required temperature.

2.8 Hot plate for heating compaction hammer, spoon and spatula.

2.9 A flat spatula with blade approximately 1 inch wide and at least 6 inches long, stiff enough to penetrate the entire bituminous mixture.

2.10 Calibrated/verified thermometers, for determining temperatures of bituminous mixtures, with a range of 50 to 400 °F and increments of not greater than 5 °F. For digital thermometers, increments shall not be greater than 1 °F.

2.11 A balance or scale capable of measuring the maximum weight to be determined and conforming to the requirements of AASHTO M 231, except the readability and sensitivity of any balance or scale utilized shall be at least one gram.

2.12 If Marshall stability and flow are to be determined, the following additional apparatus is required:

2.12.1 Breaking Head and Water Bath, conforming to the requirements specified in AASHTO T 245.

2.12.2 Marshall stability and flow testing apparatus, with operating instruction manual. The apparatus shall be capable of applying a load with a constant rate of travel of 2.0 ± 0.1 inches per minute.

2.12.3 Height gauge capable of measuring the height of specimens to the nearest 0.001 inch.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Obtain three representative samples for Marshall specimens, as described in Arizona Test Method 416. If the Combined Aggregate Bulk (O.D.) Specific Gravity is known, the weight calculated by the following equation (± 50 grams) will normally give specimens which meet the height requirement of 2.300 to 2.700 inches. (1150 ± 50 grams is generally adequate.)

$$\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{Weight of}\\ \text{each Sample}\end{array}\right] = \frac{\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{Combined Aggregate}\\ \text{Bulk (O.D.) Specific Gravity}\end{array}\right]}{2.520} \text{ x } 1150$$

3.2 Before placing the mixture in the mold, the mixture and a mold assembly (baseplate, mold, and collar) shall be at approximately 290 °F. The face of the compaction hammer shall be thoroughly cleaned and heated on a hot plate set at approximately 290 °F. The temperature of the laboratory during compaction of the specimens shall be between 68 and 86 °F.

3.3 Place a 4-inch paper disc in the bottom of the mold before the mixture is introduced. Place the entire batch in the mold in one lift. Care should be taken to avoid segregation of material in the mold. Spade the mixture vigorously, penetrating the entire mix, with the heated spatula 15 times around the perimeter and 10 times at random into the mixture. Smooth the surface of the mix to a slightly rounded shape.

3.4 The compaction temperature shall be the laboratory compaction temperature shown on the mix design.

3.5 If necessary, the mixture and mold assembly shall be returned to an oven at the required temperature for the minimum time necessary to achieve the laboratory compaction temperature ± 5 °F; however, in no case shall the mixture be reheated longer than 60 minutes.

3.6 Place a 4-inch paper disc on top of material, place the mold assembly on the compaction pedestal in the mold holder, and apply 75 blows [or adjusted number, as determined in Subsection 2.4] with the compaction hammer. When a hand hammer is utilized, the operator shall hold the handle by one hand so that the axis of the compaction hammer is as nearly perpendicular to the base of the mold assembly as possible while compaction is accomplished. Care shall be taken not to add body weight to the hammer by leaning or pressing down on the hammer. When using a hand hammer, no mechanical device of any kind is

to be used to restrict movement of the handle during compaction. Compaction shall be performed at a minimum rate of 40 blows per minute. The compaction hammer shall apply only one blow with each fall, that is, there shall not be a rebound impact. Remove the base plate and collar, and reverse and reassemble the mold. Apply 75 (or adjusted number) compaction blows to the face of the reversed specimen.

3.7 Remove collar, baseplate, and paper discs, and allow specimen to cool. Cooling may be accomplished at room temperature, in a 77 °F air bath, or if more rapid cooling is desired the mold and specimen may be placed in front of a fan until cool.

3.8 Extrude the specimen from the mold. Care shall be taken in extruding the specimen from the mold, so as not to develop tensile stresses in the specimen or tear the sides of the specimen.

4. SPECIMEN TESTING

4.1 If Marshall stability and flow are to be determined, measure height of specimens to the nearest 0.001 inch. Prior to measurement of height, excess material shall be brushed from the edges of the specimens. Compacted specimens shall be 2.300 to 2.700 inches in height. If this criteria is not met, the entire set of specimens shall be discarded and a new set prepared after necessary adjustments in sample weight have been made.

4.2 Determine the specific gravity of the specimens in accordance with Arizona Test Method 415, Method A. (Assume specimen is at constant weight after cooling.)

4.3 Determine the bulk density of each of the specimens, by multiplying the respective specific gravity by 62.3 lbs./cu. ft. Record the individual bulk densities to the nearest 0.1 lb./cu. ft. The densities of the three specimens shall not differ by more than 2.5 lbs./cu. ft. for 1/2", 3/4", or recycle mixes; and 3.0 lbs./cu. ft. for Base mixes. If this density requirement is not met, the entire set of specimens shall be discarded and a new set of specimens prepared.

4.4 Determine the average specific gravity of the specimens and record to the nearest 0.001. Calculate the average bulk density of the specimens, by multiplying the average specific gravity by 62.3 lbs./cu. ft. Record the average bulk density to the nearest 0.1 lb./cu. ft.

4.5 If the stability and flow are to be determined, the steps in Subsections 4.6 through 4.11 below are followed, utilizing the apparatus in accordance with the operating instructions for that apparatus.

4.6 Bring the specimens to 140 $\pm$ 2 °F by immersing in the water bath 30 to 40 minutes. Prior to testing, it shall be assured that the inside of the test heads are clean, and that the guide rods are clean and lubricated so that the upper test head slides freely over them.

4.7 The breaking head temperature shall be maintained between 70 to 100 °F, using a water bath when required. Remove the specimen from the water bath, quickly towel dry specimen and place in the lower segment of the breaking head. Place the upper segment of the breaking head on the specimen, and place the complete assembly in position on the testing machine.

4.8 Apply the load to the specimen with a constant rate of 2.0 $\pm$ 0.1 inches per minute until the maximum load is reached and the load decreases. The maximum load is defined as the last point in the load/time curve before the load decreases. The elapsed time for the test from removal of the test specimen from water bath to maximum load determination shall not exceed 30 seconds.

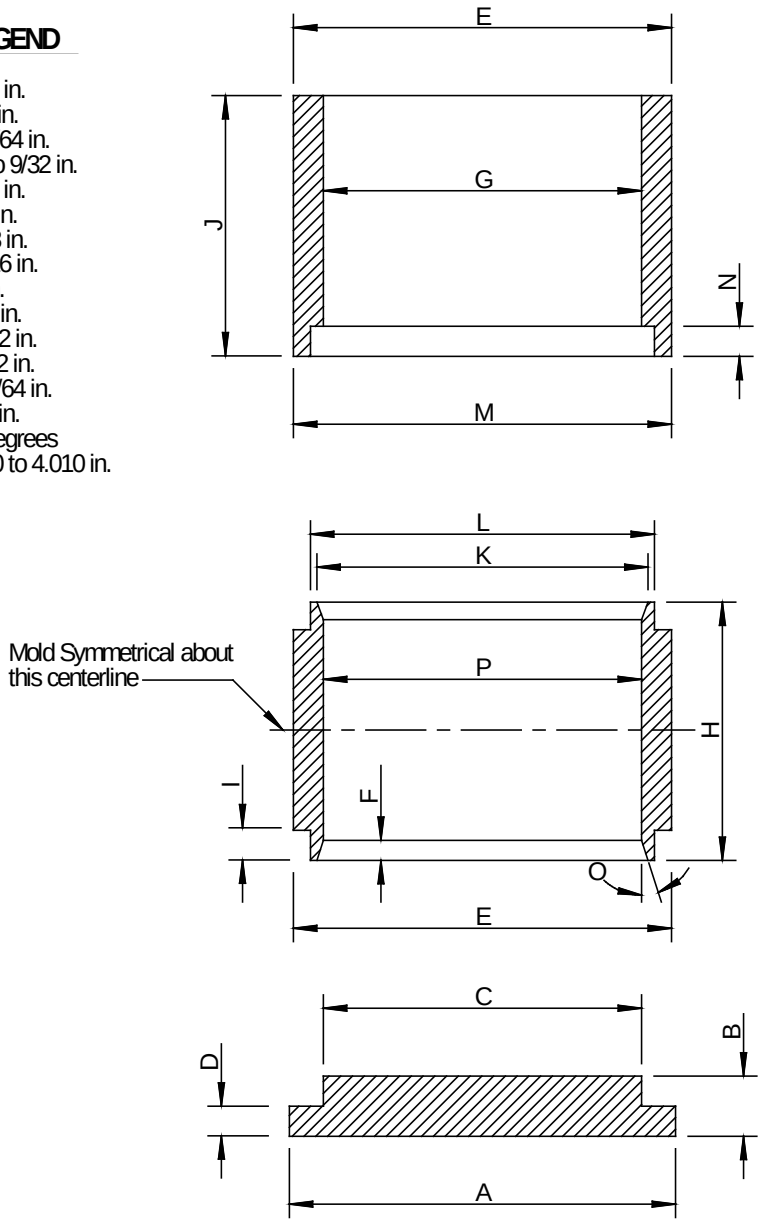
4.9 Record the stability of each specimen to the nearest 10 pounds force, and the flow to the nearest 0.01 inch.

4.10 Correct the stability obtained for each specimen, for the height of the specimen, by the table in Figure 2. Record the corrected stability to the nearest 10 pounds force.

4.11 Determine and record the average corrected stability to the nearest 10 pounds force, and the average flow to the nearest 0.01 inch.

LEGEND

A: 4-3/4 in.
B: 9/16 in.
C: 3-63/64 in.
D: 1/8 to 9/32 in.
E: 4-1/2 in.
F: 3/16 in.
G: 4-1/8 in.
H: 3-7/16 in.
I: 1/4 in.
J: 2-3/4 in.
K: 4-5/32 in.
L: 4-9/32 in.
M: 4-19/64 in.
N: 9/32 in.
O: 20 degrees
P: 3.990 to 4.010 in.



All dimensions are nominal, except where tolerances are indicated.

Four Inch Compaction Mold, Extension Collar, and Baseplate

FIGURE 1

STABILITY CORRELATION RATIOS*

For 4 inch Diameter Specimens

Height of Specimen (Inches)	Correlation Ratio
2.300 - 2.306	1.15
2.307 - 2.319	1.14
2.320 - 2.332	1.13
2.333 - 2.344	1.12
2.345 - 2.357	1.11
2.358 - 2.369	1.10
2.370 - 2.381	1.09
2.382 - 2.393	1.08
2.394 - 2.405	1.07
2.406 - 2.417	1.06
2.418 - 2.430	1.05
2.431 - 2.445	1.04
2.446 - 2.461	1.03
2.462 - 2.477	1.02
2.478 - 2.492	1.01
2.493 - 2.507	1.00
2.508 - 2.522	0.99
2.523 - 2.537	0.98
2.538 - 2.553	0.97
2.554 - 2.573	0.96
2.574 - 2.594	0.95
2.595 - 2.615	0.94
2.616 - 2.634	0.93
2.635 - 2.649	0.92
2.650 - 2.663	0.91
2.664 - 2.679	0.90
2.680 - 2.697	0.89
2.698 - 2.700	0.88

* The measured stability of a specimen multiplied by the correlation ratio for the height of the specimen equals the corrected stability for a 2-1/2 inch specimen.

FIGURE 2