

Memorandum

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

Date: August 26, 2026

File: Division of Construction
CPD 26-4



From: RAMON HOPKINS, Chief
Division of Construction

Subject: **POST-PRODUCTION AGGREGATE GRADATION FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT—
UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE**

This Construction procedure directive (CPD) supersedes CPD 24-6, “Post-Production Gradation of Aggregates for HMA,” dated August 21, 2024. It provides updated implementation guidance for post-production aggregate gradation (PPG) in Section 39, “Asphalt Concrete,” of the *Standard Specifications* by allowing the contractor to:

- Replace the current test method AASHTO T 308 (Modified), “Standard Method of Test for Determining the Asphalt Binder Content of Asphalt Mixtures by the Ignition Method,” with California Test 382 (CT 382) which includes the procedure for developing ignition oven-specific correction factors for each hot mix asphalt (HMA) job mix formula (JMF) used in PPG calculation.
- Use valid American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) T 27-approved HMA JMF in projects with PPG specifications.

The 2024 *Standard Specifications* changed the aggregate gradation testing method for HMA aggregate from pre-plant aggregate gradation (using AASHTO T 27, “Standard Method of Test for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates”) to PPG (using AASHTO T 30, “Standard Method of Test for Mechanical Analysis of Extracted Aggregate”).

CPD 24-6 provided implementation guidance for the initial rollout of the PPG specifications, including allowing the use of valid AASHTO T 27-approved HMA JMF on projects with PPG specifications. Following statewide implementation, additional guidance was needed to address the use of AASHTO T 27 HMA JMF meeting the AASHTO T 30 specifications and to establish a standardized statewide procedure for developing a correction factor for PPG calculation.

Implementation Guidance

Contractors may use one or both of the following methods to implement the PPG specifications:

- Use a valid AASHTO T 27-approved HMA JMF on projects requiring PPG specifications and select one of the following options:
 - Option 1: Use the approved JMF without adjusting the aggregate gradation target values.
 - Option 2: Adjust the aggregate gradation target values. When target values are adjusted, the engineer must verify the modified HMA JMF before authorizing its use.
- Replace the current test method AASHTO T 308 (Modified) with CT 382.

Refer to the attachments of this CPD for detailed implementation procedures in the sample change orders and sample change order memorandums for each option.

If you have questions or comments regarding this directive, contact Ragu Thangavelautham, Division of Construction, at Raguparan.Thangavelautham@dot.ca.gov or (916) 764-8496.

Attachments:

1. Sample Form DOT CEM-4903, "Change Order Memorandum," Continued Use of Valid AASHTO T 27-Approved HMA JMF on Projects with PPG Specifications
2. Sample Form DOT CEM-4900, "Change Order," Continued Use of Valid AASHTO T 27-Approved HMA JMF on Projects with PPG Specifications
3. Sample Form DOT CEM-4903, "Change Order Memorandum," Replace AASHTO T 308 (Modified) with CT 382
4. Sample Form DOT CEM-4900, "Change Order," Replace AASHTO T 308 (Modified) with CT 382