



Designation: D 6307 – 04

Standard Test Method for Asphalt Content of Hot-Mix Asphalt by Ignition Method¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of asphalt content of hot-mix asphalt (HMA) paving mixtures and pavement samples by removing the asphalt cement at 540°C by ignition in a furnace.

NOTE 1—Aggregate obtained by this test method may be used for sieve analysis. Particle size degradation may occur with some aggregates.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitation prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- C 670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials
- C 702 Practice for Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size
- D 75 Practice for Sampling Aggregates
- D 140 Practice for Sampling Bituminous Materials
- D 979 Practice for Sampling Bituminous Paving Mixtures
- D 1461 Test Method for Moisture or Volatile Distillates in Bituminous Paving Mixtures
- D 4753 Guide for Evaluating, Selecting, and Specifying Balances and Standard Masses for Use in Soil, Rock, and Construction Materials Testing

3. Summary of Test Methods

3.1 The asphalt cement in the paving mixture is ignited using the furnace equipment applicable to the particular method. The asphalt content is calculated by difference from the mass of the residual aggregate and moisture content. The asphalt content is expressed as mass percent of moisture-free mixtures. Test Method A is intended for furnaces with an

internal, automated weighing system. Test Method B is intended for furnaces without an internal weighing system.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method can be used for quantitative determination of asphalt content in HMA paving mixtures and pavement samples for quality control, specification acceptance, and mixture evaluation studies. This test method does not require the use of solvents.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Balance*, readable to 0.1 g, and capable of measuring the mass of sample, sample trays, and catch pan. The balance shall be in accordance with Guide D 4753, Class GP2.

5.2 *Sample Tray(s)*, of appropriate size that allows the samples to be spread thinly and allows air to flow up through and around the sample particles. The sample shall be enclosed completely with screen mesh, perforated stainless steel plate, or other suitable material.

NOTE 2—Screen mesh or other suitable material with maximum and minimum openings of 3.35 mm and 600 μ m, respectively, has been found to perform well.

5.3 *Catch Pan*, of appropriate size to hold the sample trays so that aggregate particles and melting asphalt binder falling through the screen mesh are caught.

5.4 *Catch Pan/Sample Tray(s) Handling Apparatus*, suitable for inserting catch pan and sample tray(s) into furnace and removing hot catch pan and sample tray(s) from furnace.

5.5 *Assorted Spatulas, Pans, Bowls, and Wire Brushes*, for preparing HMA mixtures and removing aggregate from sample tray(s) and catch pan.

5.6 *Protective Gloves*, well insulated and capable of withstanding 580°C.

5.7 *Ovens*—Mechanical ovens, convection or forced draft, shall be provided for drying aggregates and HMA mixtures, and for preheating HMA mixtures prior to ignition testing.

5.8 *Ignition Furnace*, as described in 8.1.1 or 11.1.1.

6. Hazards

6.1 The temperature of the furnace, sample, sample tray(s), and catch pan after removal from the furnace is extremely high. Caution, therefore, must be exercised at all times when handling these items as failure to do so could result in serious

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

injury, severe burns, or fire. The sample, sample tray(s), and catch pan should be placed inside a safety cage and should not be allowed to cool near any materials that are subject to ignition at the high temperatures used in this procedure. The furnace manufacturer's instruction manual must be followed to take all necessary precautions.

7. Sampling

7.1 Obtain samples of aggregate in accordance with Practice D 75.

7.2 Obtain samples of HMA in accordance with Practice D 979.

7.3 Preparation of Test Specimens:

7.3.1 If the mixture is not soft enough to separate with a spatula or trowel, place it in a large, flat pan and warm in an oven set at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ until it can be separated or mixed. Split or quarter the material in accordance with Practice C 702 until the mass of material required for the test is obtained.

7.3.2 The size of the test sample shall be governed by the nominal maximum aggregate size of the mixture and shall conform to the mass requirement shown in Table 1 (see Note 3).

NOTE 3—When the mass of the test specimen exceeds the capacity of the equipment used (for a particular method), the test specimen may be divided into suitable increments, tested, and the results combined for calculation of asphalt content based on the weighted average of the masses used in the increments.

7.4 Obtain samples of asphalt cement in accordance with Practice D 140.

TEST METHOD A

8. Apparatus

8.1 In addition to the apparatus listed in Section 5, the following apparatus is required for Test Method A.

8.1.1 *Ignition Furnace*—A forced air ignition furnace that heats the sample by either convection method or direct-irradiation method. The convection-type furnace must have a minimum temperature capability of 580°C . The furnace shall have an internal weighing system capable of measuring the mass of sample sizes of at least 2500 g. The furnace chamber shall be of sufficient size to accommodate sample sizes of at least 2500 g. A data collection system also shall be included so that the sample mass loss can be determined automatically to an accuracy of 0.1 g and displayed during a test. The test is deemed complete when the difference between consecutive measured mass loss does not exceed 0.01 % of the sample mass for three consecutive 1-min intervals. The equipment shall provide a printout of the test results. A system capable of

reducing furnace emissions to an acceptable level also shall be incorporated in the furnace. The furnace shall be vented into a hood or to the outside and when set up properly will have no noticeable odors escaping into the laboratory. The furnace will have a fan with the capability to pull air through the furnace to expedite the test and to reduce escape of smoke into the laboratory. The furnace shall be equipped so that the door cannot be opened during the ignition test.

8.1.2 *Filters*, if required, of the type specified by the furnace manufacturer.

9. Calibration

9.1 The results of this test method may be affected by the type of aggregate in the mixture because different aggregates lose mass on ignition to varying degrees. The results also may be affected by the presence of additives and modifiers in the HMA sample. Accordingly, to optimize accuracy, a calibration factor shall be established by testing three calibration samples for each mix type. The calibration shall be performed on a prepared sample of asphalt mixture, which also shall include additives and modifiers, if any, to be used.

9.2 Obtain samples of blended aggregate to be used in HMA in accordance with 7.1. The sample should be approximately the same mass and gradation as that to be used for the HMA test sample (10.1).

9.3 Obtain samples of asphalt cement to be used in HMA in accordance with 7.4.

9.4 Oven dry the aggregate samples to a constant mass.

9.4.1 For the convection-type furnace, set the furnace temperature to $540 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ for calibration using mixtures.

9.4.2 For the direct-irradiation-type furnace, set the burn profile to the DEFAULT mode.

9.5 Heat the aggregates and asphalt cement to approximately 150°C . Heat all mixing bowls and tools to approximately 150°C .

9.6 Prior to the mixing of calibration samples, an initial or "butter" mix is required to condition the mixing equipment. Remove and discard the "butter" mix from the bowl by scraping, leaving a uniform coating of asphalt mix residue.

NOTE 4—The "butter" mix prevents calibration samples from being biased by residual asphalt mix retained in the mixing bowl.

9.7 Prepare three calibration samples at the design asphalt cement content (P). Incorporate additives and modifiers, if any, to be used.

9.8 Determine and record the mass of the sample tray(s) and catch pan to the nearest 0.1 g.

9.9 Evenly distribute the sample in the sample tray(s).

9.10 Determine the mass of the sample, sample tray(s), and catch pan to the nearest 0.1 g. Calculate and record the initial mass of the sample (M_i).

9.11 Heat the calibration sample in the furnace at $540 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ until the change in mass of the sample during three consecutive 1-min intervals does not exceed 0.01 % of the sample mass (M_i).

9.12 Measure and record the mass (M_f) of the sample after ignition to the nearest 0.1 g. The mass can be obtained immediately upon completion of the test from the printout or display.

TABLE 1 Size of Sample

Nominal Maximum Aggregate Size Standard, mm	Minimum Mass of Sample, kg
4.75	0.5
9.5	1
12.5	1.5
19.0	2
25.0	3
37.5	4