



Designation: D3203 – 05

Standard Test Method for Percent Air Voids in Compacted Dense and Open Bituminous Paving Mixtures¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3203; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers determination of the percent air voids in compacted dense and open bituminous paving mixtures.

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 limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D1188 Test Method for Bulk Specific Gravity and Density of Compacted Bituminous Mixtures Using Coated Samples](#)

[D2041 Test Method for Theoretical Maximum Specific Gravity and Density of Bituminous Paving Mixtures](#)

[D2726 Test Method for Bulk Specific Gravity and Density of Non-Absorptive Compacted Bituminous Mixtures](#)

[D3549 Test Method for Thickness or Height of Compacted Bituminous Paving Mixture Specimens](#)

[D4460 Practice for Calculating Precision Limits Where Values are Calculated from Other Test Methods](#)

[D6752 Test Method for Bulk Specific Gravity and Density of Compacted Bituminous Mixtures Using Automatic Vacuum Sealing Method](#)

[D6857 Test Method for Maximum Specific Gravity and Density of Bituminous Paving Mixtures Using Automatic Vacuum Sealing Method](#)

[E12 Terminology Relating to Density and Specific Gravity of Solids, Liquids, and Gases](#)³

3. Terminology

3.1 The terms *specific gravity* and *density* used in this test method are in accordance with Terminology [E12](#).

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *air voids*—the pockets of air between the bitumen-coated aggregate particles in a compacted bituminous paving mixture.

3.2.2 *dense bituminous paving mixtures*—bituminous paving mixtures in which the air voids are less than 10 % when compacted.

3.2.3 *open bituminous paving mixtures*—bituminous paving mixtures in which the air voids are 10 % or more when compacted.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—For borderline cases, a bituminous paving mixture shall be designated an open bituminous paving mixture if the calculated percent air voids, based on either [6.1](#) or [6.2](#), is 10 % or more.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The percent of air voids in a bituminous mixture is used as one of the criteria in the design methods and for evaluation of the compaction imparted in bituminous paving projects.

5. Sampling

5.1 Samples for testing shall consist of specimens from laboratory molded mixtures or cores from field compacted mixtures.

6. Procedure

6.1 For dense bituminous paving mixtures, determine the bulk specific gravity of the compacted mixture by Test Method [D1188](#), by Test Method [D2726](#), or by Test Method [D6752](#). Determine the theoretical maximum specific gravity by Test Method [D2041](#) or by Test Method [D6857](#) on a comparable bituminous mixture to avoid the influence of differences in gradation, asphalt content, and so forth.

6.2 For open bituminous mixtures, determine the density of a regularly shaped specimen of compacted mixture from its dry mass (in grams) and its volume (in cubic centimetres). Obtain the height of the specimens by Test Method [D3549](#). Measure the diameter of the specimen at four locations and average. Calculate the volume of the specimen based on the average

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D04](#) on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D04.21](#) on Specific Gravity and Density of Bituminous Mixtures.

Current edition approved June 1, 2005. Published July 2005. Originally approved in 1973. Last previous edition approved in 2000 as D3203 – 94 (2000). DOI: 10.1520/D3203-05.

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.

³ Withdrawn.