Method of Test for
SAND EQUIVALENT OF SOILS AND FINE AGGREGATE
DOTD Designation: TR 120-03
(AASHTO T 176)

I. Scope

A. This method of test is designed to determine the relative proportion of dust or clay material in fine aggregates using a mechanical shaker.

B. Reference Documents
   1. DOTD TR 108 – Splitting and Quartering Samples.
   2. DOTD TR 411 – Dry Preparation of Disturbed Samples for Test.
   3. AASHTO T 176 – Plastic Fines in Graded Aggregates and Soils by Use of the Sand Equivalent Test.

II. Apparatus

A. Sand Equivalent Test Equipment – graduated plastic cylinder, rubber stopper, irrigator tube, weighted foot assembly, and siphon assembly, with mechanical shaker, all conforming to specifications, dimensions, and setup as designated in AASHTO T 176.

B. Holding cans – four 6-oz. No. 2 cans.

C. Tin cans – specimen cups, DOTD Stock No. 16-16-2320.

D. Sample splitter.

E. Catch pan.

F. Oven – capable of maintaining a temperature of 110±5°C (230±9°F).

G. Straightedge.

H. Asphaltic Concrete Job Mix Formula – DOTD Form No. 03-22-0730. (Figure 1)

I. Sand Equivalent for Asphaltic Concrete Sands – DOTD Form No. 03-22-0747. (Figure 2)

J. Thermal gloves, apron, and other tools – for handling hot materials.

K. Calcium Chloride Stock Solution – a stock solution of Calcium Chloride, formulated containing formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde or Kathon CG/ICP, prepared in accordance with AASHTO T 176. This solution may be purchased directly from commercial sources, rather than mixed from individual components.

III. Health Precautions

Handling heated materials and equipment can cause severe burns. Always use proper caution and safety equipment when working with hot material or equipment.

IV. Sample Preparation

A. Obtain approximately 14 kg (30 lb) each of fine and coarse sand.

B. Place the fine and coarse sand in the oven and dry to constant weight at 110°C (230°F).

   Note 1: Constant weight for drying purposes is defined as less than 0.1% weight loss between successive weighings no less than 5 minutes apart.

C. Prepare both fine and coarse sands in accordance with DOTD TR 411 by pulverizing all lumps of fine-grained soil material to pass the 4.25 mm (No. 4) sieve. Discard all material retained on the No. 4 sieve.

D. Split the material passing the 4.25 mm (No. 4) sieve to approximately 1 kg (2.20 lb) each of fine and coarse sand in accordance with DOTD TR 108.

E. Combine and thoroughly blend the fine and coarse sands in the same proportions as the bin percentages from the JMF based on total aggregate to create approximately 1 kg (2.20 lb) of blended material, in accordance with Steps VI.A and B.

F. Split the 1 kg (2.20 lb) blended material obtained from Step E to obtain four test specimens weighing approximately 250 g (0.55 lb). Put
each of the test specimens into a No. 2 holding can with a sample identification marked on the side.

G. Place three of the four specimens obtained in Step F into 85 mL (3-oz) specimen cups. While filling each specimen cup, tap the bottom of the specimen cup on the worktable to consolidate the material. Allow the material to overflow the specimen cups.

H. Strike off the material to the top of the cups with the straightedge over a catch pan. Return extra material to the holding can.

Note 2: The fourth test specimen is used as a reserve, if a clear clay reading cannot be obtained on any of the three original specimens.

V. Calcium Chloride Working Solution Preparation

Prepare a working solution of calcium chloride by diluting 85±5 mL of the stock calcium chloride solution with distilled water to 3.8 L (1gal).

Note 3: The working calcium chloride solution should be discarded after it is no longer a clear, transparent liquid free of biological growth and new solution mixed.

VI. Procedure

Note 4: When performing this test in rapid sequence, proper time references must be established. You must allow enough time between each test specimen in order to be able to mechanically shake one test specimen before the 10-minute soaking period has expired on the next test specimen. If a complete set of 3 specimens is to be run, the recommended time period between test specimens is 3 minutes. If each test specimen is to be individually completed before the next one is begun, the time sequence is not necessary.

Note 5: Perform this test in a vibration free location; vibrations may cause the suspended material to settle at a rate greater than normal.

A. Pour calcium chloride (CaCl₂) working solution into each of three plastic cylinders filling to 101.6 ± 2.5 mL (4 ± 0.1 in.), reading at the bottom of the meniscus.

B. Pour the test specimen from the sample cup through a funnel into the plastic cylinder.

C. Tap the bottom of the cylinder sharply on the heel of the hand until the solution penetrates the test specimen and air bubbles stop. Record as Time Soaking Period Started on the worksheet.

D. Allow the test specimen to soak for 10±1 minute.

E. At the end of the 10-minute soaking period, place a rubber stopper over the top of the plastic cylinder.

F. Agitate the test specimen by vigorously shaking the cylinder around the horizontal pivot point, making sure that the test specimen is dislodged from the bottom and thoroughly mixed with the water.

G. Place the cylinder in the mechanical shaking machine; set the time at 45±1 second and turn on the machine.

H. After completion of the shaking operation, set the cylinder upright on the working table and remove the rubber stopper. Using the CaCl₂ working solution, wash the fines from the rubber stopper back into the cylinder.

I. Insert the irrigator tube into the cylinder and, using the CaCl₂ working solution, wash the material from the cylinder walls while lowering the irrigator toward the bottom of the cylinder.

J. Force the irrigator tube through the material to the bottom of the cylinder by applying a light stabbing and twisting action while the working solution flows from the holes in the sides of the irrigator tip. Continue to
apply the stabbing and twisting action while flushing the fines upward.

K. Raise the irrigator slowly without shutting off the flow. Regulate the flow just before the irrigator is entirely withdrawn and adjust the final level to 381 ± 2.4 mm (15 ± 0.1 in.), reading the bottom of the meniscus. Record as *Time Sedimentation Period Started* on the worksheet.

L. Allow the cylinder and contents to stand undisturbed on a vibration free location for a 20 min ± 15 sec sedimentation period. The time will begin with removal of the irrigator tube.

M. After the 20-min sedimentation period has elapsed and a clear line of demarcation has formed between the test specimen and the clear liquid, read and record the level of the top of the clay suspension as *Clay Reading, B,* on the worksheet.

N. If no clear line of demarcation has formed at the end of the specified 20-minute sedimentation period, allow the sample to stand undisturbed for a maximum of 30 minutes until a clay reading can be obtained. Immediately read and record the level of the top of the clay suspension. If total sedimentation time exceeds 30 minutes, rerun the test using the fourth sample. If two or more samples do not settle, rerun the test using three new individual samples of the same material.

O. After the clay reading has been obtained, obtain the sand reading by using a weighted foot assembly.

1. When using the weighted foot assembly with the sand indicator on the rod of the assembly, place the assembly over the cylinder and gently lower the assembly toward the sand. Do not allow the indicator to hit the mouth of the cylinder while the assembly is being lowered. When the weighted foot comes to rest on the sand, read the level of the top of the clay suspension as *Clay Reading, B,* on the worksheet.

VII. Calculations

A. Calculate the portions of coarse sand to fine sand in the bin percentages from the JMF for the composite.

1. Calculate the total combined sand from the JMF, *T,* to the nearest 0.1% using the following formula:

   \[ T = F + C \]

   where:

   \[ F = \text{fine sand from JMF, } \%

   \[ C = \text{coarse sand from JMF, } \%

   example:

   \[ F = 8.0 \]
   \[ C = 24.0 \]

   \[ T = 8.0 + 24.0 \]

   \[ T = 32.0\% \]

2. Calculate the percentage of fine and coarse sand in the composite.

   a. Calculate the percentage of fine sand for the composite, *D,*
B. Calculate the weights of fine and coarse sand to be used to blend a representative composite sand material.

1. Calculate the weight of fine sand for composite, $WF$, to the nearest gram using the following formula:

$$WF = \frac{S \times D}{100}$$

where:

- $S =$ weight of blended sand from Step IV.E, g
- $D =$ fine sand for composite, %
- $100 =$ constant

example:

$$WF = \frac{1000 \times 25}{100} = \frac{25000}{100} = 250 \text{ g}$$

2. Calculate the weight of coarse sand for the composite, $WC$, to the nearest gram using the following formula:

$$WC = \frac{S \times E}{100}$$

where:

- $S =$ weight of blended sand from Step IV.E, g
- $E =$ coarse sand for composite, %
- $100 =$ constant

example:

$$WC = \frac{1000 \times 75}{100} = \frac{75000}{100} = 750 \text{ g}$$
example:

S = 1000 g
E = 75 %

\[ WC = \frac{1000 \times 75}{100} = 75000 \]
\[ WC = \frac{1000 \times 75}{100} = 75000 \]
\[ WC = 750 \text{ g} \]

C. Calculate the sand equivalent, SE, to the next highest whole number using the following formula:

\[ SE = \frac{A}{B} \times 100 \]

where:

A = sand reading
B = clay reading
100 = constant

example:

A = 2.7
B = 6.7

\[ SE = \frac{2.7}{6.7} \times 100 = 0.429 \times 100 \]
\[ SE = 40.29 = 41 \]

D. Calculate the average sand equivalent value (Avg SE), C, to the next highest whole number using the following formula:

\[ C = \frac{SE_1 + SE_2 + SE_3}{3} \]

where:

SE₁ = sand equivalent for test specimen 1
SE₂ = sand equivalent for test specimen 2
SE₃ = sand equivalent for test specimen 3
3 = constant, number of test specimens

example:

SE₁ = 41
SE₂ = 43
SE₃ = 44

\[ C = \frac{41 + 43 + 44}{3} \]
\[ C = \frac{128}{3} \]
\[ C = 42.7 \approx 43 \]

VIII. Report

Report the individual sand equivalent values for each test specimen and the Average Sand Equivalent Value on the Sand Equivalent for Asphaltic Concrete Sands Worksheet and on the Asphaltic Concrete Job Mix Formula.

IX. Normal Test Reporting Time

Normal testing and reporting time is 2 days.
## ASPHALTIC CONCRETE JOB MIX FORMULA - 2000 Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Spec. Grav. Fr. Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>658</td>
<td>PG-70-22M</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>631</td>
<td>CR. SAND</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>631</td>
<td>CR. GRAVEL</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>631</td>
<td>CR. GRAVEL</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>RECLAIMED SAND</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>613</td>
<td>EMERY</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TEST PROPERTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spec. Grav. (Bulk)</th>
<th>Contractors Avg</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Validation Avg g.</th>
<th>JMF Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECOMMENDED FORMULA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Sieve</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
<th>JMF Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 in.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2 in.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70-100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 in.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70-100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 in.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 in.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8 in.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% AC. Exct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Crushed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mix Temp °F (C)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% AS (Meter)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DEPARTMENT RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjustment Factor</th>
<th>Tensile Strength, Control, psi</th>
<th>Tensile Strength Ratio (TSR), %</th>
<th>Ross Count, % (AASHTO T 195)</th>
<th>Effective AC, %</th>
<th>Absorbed AC, %</th>
<th>% Natural Sands</th>
<th>Sand Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture Content of Mix, %</th>
<th>Optimum Mixing Temp. (F)</th>
<th>Optimum Compaction Temp. (F)</th>
<th>Abson Recovery (Pois)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submitted for the Contractor By: DOD 03-22-0730

2000 Specifications

Figure 1A
Figure 2
DOTD 03-22-0747