APPLICATIONS

Superpave mixtures are usually used on medium to high volume roadways, performance design mixtures may be appropriate for applications ranging from high volume (or high demand) roadways to low volume (or low demand) roadways. Superpave mixtures can be used as base, intermediate or surface layers. Superpave mixtures can also be used for a wide variety of applications ranging from new construction to overlays.

ADVANTAGES

As compared to the 7897A specification used for dense-graded mixtures, one of the primary advantages of performance design mixtures is that the mixture design procedures allows one to adjust the binder content (by adjusting the $N_{\text{des}}$ gyrations) depending on the intended application. The higher asphalt will help mitigate cracking and provides for greater durability.

Another advantage is that Superpave mixtures can be designed coarse enough to have stone on stone contact. Achieving stone on stone contact can yield a mix with a coarse surface texture that is highly resistant to rutting. The coarse surface texture can be beneficial in terms of wet weather traction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Superpave Mixtures set the bar higher for contractors to meet in-place density. Using a superpave gyratory compactor allows for more oil which helps lead to longer-lasting asphalt pavements.