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Final Report:

The Evaluation of Three Different Formulations of Rejuvenator

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1 INTRODUCTION

A proposed Interim Guideline document for the evaluation of rejuvenation agents was composed for Agrément SA. Tarspray approached CSIR to evaluate three of their rejuvenation formulations in terms of two of the tests proposed in the Interim Guideline, namely:

- Chemical analysis using thin film chromatography (TLC)
- Rheology determined by the dynamic shear rheometer (DSR)

2 EXPERIMENTAL

2.1 Slab Preparation

Medium-continuous asphalt mix, prepared using 50/70 penetration- grade bitumen, was supplied by Tarspray. Five slabs (400 x 300 x 60mm) were compacted to 5.0% voids, without re-heating the mix. The voids were calculated using the maximum theoretical relative density of 2.705, supplied by Tarspray. The design for the mix is shown in Figure 3.1. After compaction, the slabs were artificially aged by placing them in a forced-draft oven at 90°C for 5 days. This was in order to simulate environmental ageing in order to prepare aged substrates where the effect of the rejuvenator samples that were supplied could be demonstrated

2.2 Rejuvenator Application

After ageing, the slabs were cooled to 50° C, and the three rejuvenator samples were applied to three slabs (one sample per slab) at an application rate of $0.3 \, \text{l/m}^2$ (Figures 3-2 to 3-5). The slabs were designated "Original Formulation", "Formulation 2" and "Formulation 3" in accordance with the rejuvenator names, respectively. One slab had no rejuvenator applied to it and was designated "Blank". The fifth slab was kept as a back-up.

After application, the slabs were allowed to dry and absorb at room temperature (23 - 27°C) for 5 days, before placing them back in a forced draft oven at 60°C for 5 days for short term ageing.

2.3 Evaluation of Rejuvenator Effects

In order to evaluate the effects of the binder, it was necessary to recover the binder from the slabs. To this end, four 150mm cores were cored from each slab and the top 10 mm sliced off for recovery (Figures 3-6 to 3-10).

The thin film chromatographic (TFC) analysis and dynamic shear rheometer properties was determined for each binder.

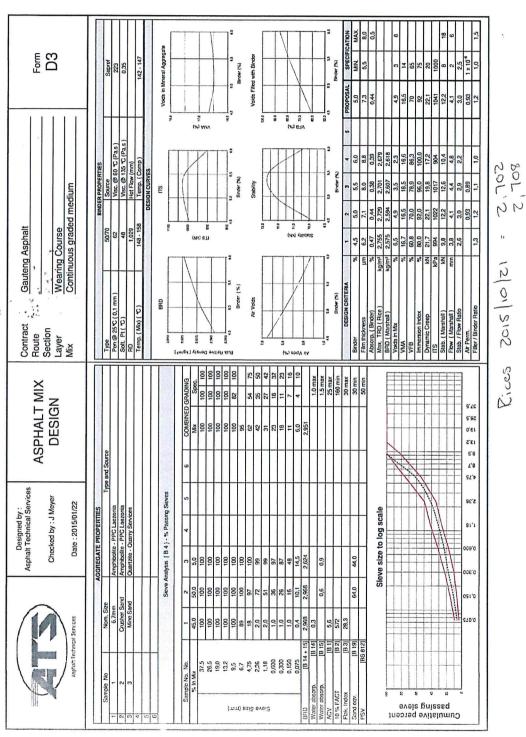


Figure 2-1: Mix Design of Asphalt supplied by Tarspray

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Figure 2-2: Slab after application of Original Formulation





Figure 2-4: Slab after application of Formulation 3



Figure 2-5: Blank Slab

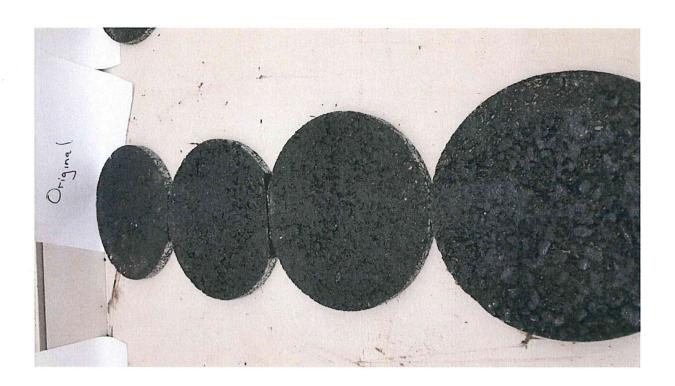


Figure 2-6: Top 10 mm after Application and Short Term Ageing: Original Formulation

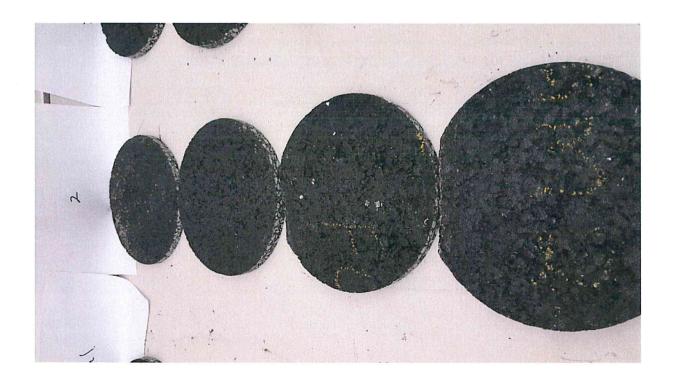


Figure 2-7: Top 10 mm after Application and Short Term Ageing: Formulation 2

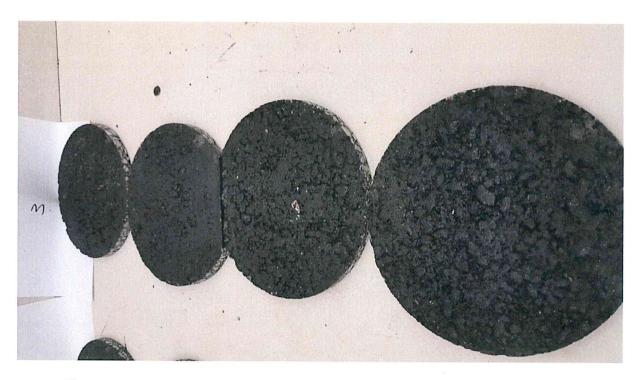
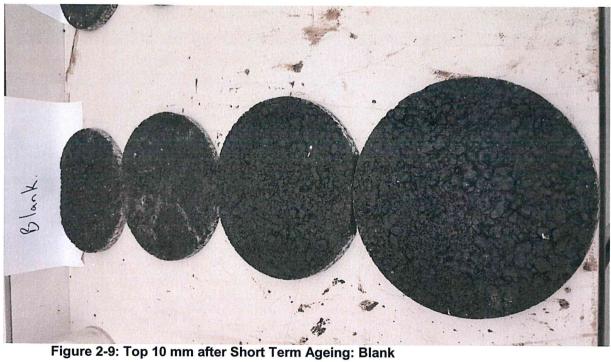


Figure 2-8: Top 10 mm after Application and Short Term Ageing: Formulation 3



Nitrile Medical Examination Gloves

Figure 2-10: Typical appearance of 10mm slices

3 RESULTS

3.1 Binder recovery

The binder was recovered from the asphalt mix cores using test method BE-TM-BINDER-1-2006, a CSIR method based on Abson distillation. The recovered binder properties are given in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Recovered Binder Properties

Property	Test Method	Original Formulation	Formulation 2	Formulation 3	Blank
Ash Content (m/m %)	ASTM D482	1.4	1.5	1.1	2.1
Solvent Gas Chromatography (area counts)	BE-TM- BINDER-5-2010	35 600	21 600	29 700	31 600

The ash content and solvent detection using gas chromatography are quality control measures used during the recovery process to ensure that the mineral fines and solvents are sufficiently removed from the recovered binder. Results should be treated with caution when the ash content exceeds 2% or the solvent concentration exceeds 50 000 area counts as these impurities will then have a noticeable effect on the recovered binder properties.

3.2 The Thin Film Chromatographic (TFC) Analysis

The TFC analysis is done according to IP 469/01

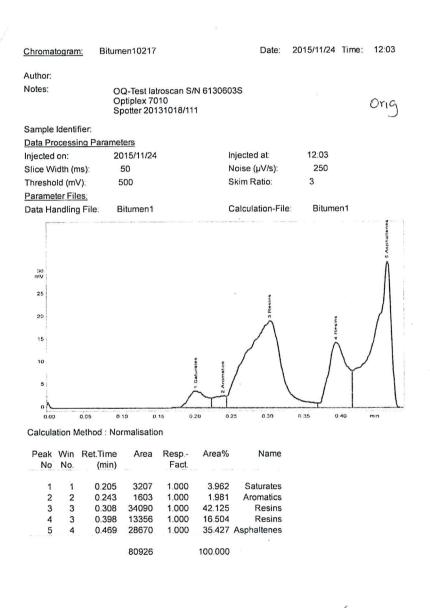
During ageing, the saturates have been found to remain largely unchanged. During ageing, however, there is a conversion from aromatics and resins and from resins to asphaltenes. There is thus a significant depletion of aromatics (Ar) and significant increase in asphaltenes (A). There is a direct relationship between the increase in asphaltene content during ageing and the rate of increase in bitumen stiffness. An increase in bitumen stiffness, in turn is related to an increase in fatigue cracking. It should be the aim of the asphalt rejuvenator to increase the aromatic (Ar) fraction of the bitumen, and in so doing, decrease the binder stiffness.

In summary, during the process of weathering or oxidation, the ratio of maltenes to asphaltenes is reduced with resulting in a dry and brittle pavement. The extent to which a rejuvenator can successfully restore the binder, it must be able to penetrate the binder and increase this ratio. A comparison of the ratio (R + Ar) / A of the extracted binders is given in Table 3-2

Table 3-2: Recovered Binder Properties

Property	Original Formulation	Formulation 2 Formulation 3		Blank
Ratio: (R + Ar) / A	1.65	0.66	0.84	1.40
Repeat	1.70	0.73	-	1.36
Average	1.68	0.70	0.84	1.38

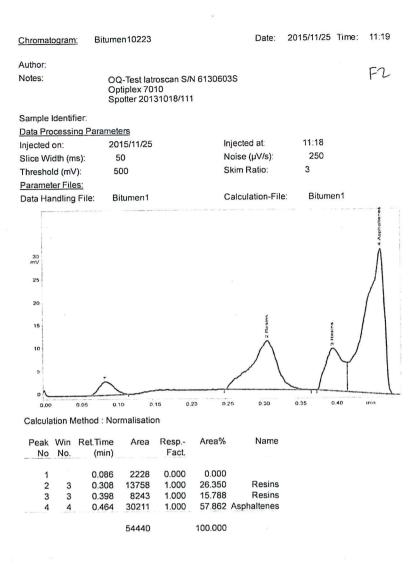
The graphs of the TLC analyses are presented in Figures 3-1 to 3-4.



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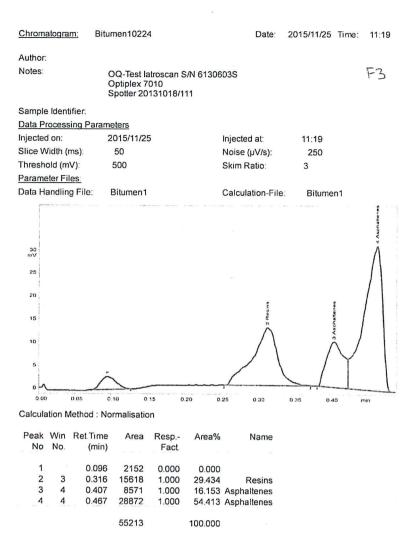
Figure 3-1: TLC Analysis: Original Formulation



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Figure 3-2: TLC Analysis: Formulation 2

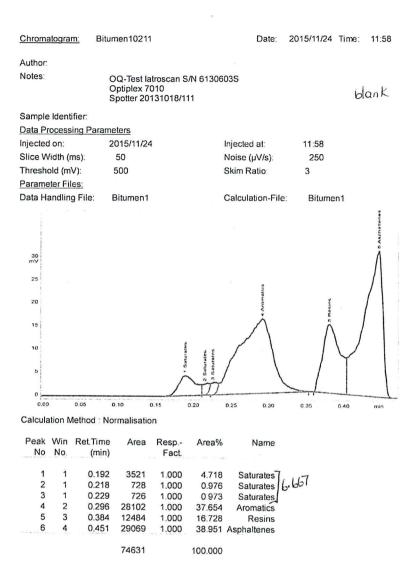


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Figure 3-3: TLC Analysis: Formulation 3



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Figure 3-4: TLC Analysis: Blank

3.3 Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR)

The DSR determines the viscoelastic properties of the binder, namely:

- The complex modulus (G*)
- The phase angle (δ)

The diagram in Figure 3-5 depicts how two binder samples with the same G* can have different phase angles. The higher the phase angle is, the higher the viscous component of G* is, and the less prone to cracking the binder becomes.

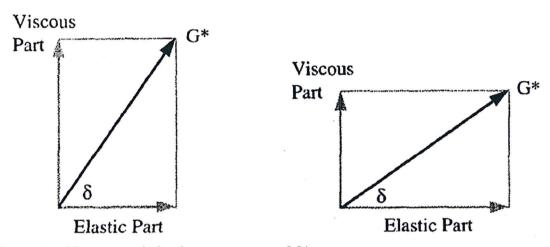


Figure 3-5: Viscous and elastic components of G*

The fatigue life of viscoelastic asphalt mixtures can be described by the dissipated energy criteria where energy is dissipated during loading and unloading periods (see Figure 3-6). In an elastic material, the stored energy during loading (equal to the area under the deflection curve) is fully recovered during the unloading period. In a viscoelastic material, the dissipation of energy occurs in a hysteresis loop during the loading and unloading periods and the area within the loop represents the dissipated energy.

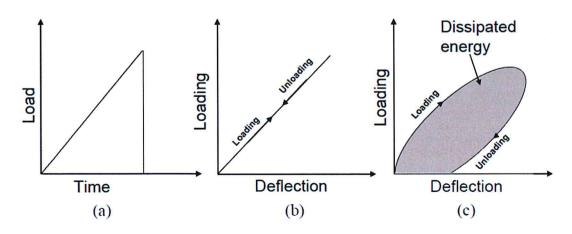


Figure 3-6: Concept of Dissipated Energy and Fatigue Life

The dissipated energy per loading cycle when a viscoelastic material is sinusoidally loaded, with the load/deflection relationship expressed as stress/strain, is given as follows:

$$w_i = \pi \tau \gamma \sin \delta$$
 Equation 3.1

where w_i is the dissipated energy at cycle i, τ is the shear stress, γ is the shear strain, and δ is the phase angle.

The SUPERPAVE® property for predicting binder fatigue performance, G^* .sin δ is derived from Equation 5.1 at a constant strain that can be expressed as:

$$w_i = \pi \gamma^2 (|G^*| \sin \delta)$$
 Equation 3.2

where G* is the complex shear modulus

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According to Equation 3.2, a lower G*.Sin favours improved fatigue performance.

The values for δ and G*Sin δ at 28°C are reported in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3: Recovered Binder Properties

Property	Original Formulation	Formulation 2	Formulation 3	Blank
δ (°C)	65.0	65.2	65.0	63.0
G*Sin δ (kPa)	1 260	1 230	1 210	1 480

4 CONCLUSIONS

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Table 3.1 indicates the binders were recovered successfully without excessive solvents or fines being retained.

Table 3-2 shows that the ratio of (R + Ar) / A improved significantly after application of the original formulation compared to the blank. However, the results for Formulation 2 and Formulation 3 made little sense, showing an overall absolute decrease in the binder on the chromarod. It is surmised that these formulations must contain some form of bitumen dispersant making this analytical tool inappropriate.

Table 3-3 shows that the phase angle for the three treated binders are very similar (65.0 – 65.2°C) and better than the blank value (63.0°C). The fatigue parameter G^* . Sin δ shows that the binder fatigue properties improved with all three formulations, only showing slight differences with:

Formulation 3 > Formulation 2 > Original Formulation