



Designation: D6373 – 21a

# Standard Specification for Performance-Graded Asphalt Binder<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6373; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification<sup>2</sup> covers asphalt binders graded by performance. Grading designations are related to the LTPP-Bind calculated maximum pavement design temperature and the minimum pavement design temperature. This specification contains Tables 1 and 2. Table 2 incorporates Practice D6816 for determining the critical low cracking temperature using a combination of Test Method D6648 and Test Method D6723 test procedures. If no table is specified, the default is Table 1.

NOTE 1—For more information on LTPPBind online, see <https://infopave.fhwa.dot.gov/Tools/LTPPBindOnline> accessed June 10, 2020.

NOTE 2—For asphalt cements graded by penetration at 25 °C, see Specification D946/D946M. For asphalt cements graded by viscosity at 60 °C, see Specification D3381/D3381M.

NOTE 3—AASHTO R 29 provides non-mandatory information for determining the performance grade of an asphalt binder.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>3</sup>

- D8 Terminology Relating to Materials for Roads and Pavements
- D92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester
- D95 Test Method for Water in Petroleum Products and

### Bituminous Materials by Distillation

- D140/D140M Practice for Sampling Asphalt Materials
  - D946/D946M Specification for Penetration-Graded Asphalt Binder for Use in Pavement Construction
  - D2042 Test Method for Solubility of Asphalt Materials in Trichloroethylene
  - D2872 Test Method for Effect of Heat and Air on a Moving Film of Asphalt (Rolling Thin-Film Oven Test)
  - D3381/D3381M Specification for Viscosity-Graded Asphalt Binder for Use in Pavement Construction
  - D4402/D4402M Test Method for Viscosity Determination of Asphalt at Elevated Temperatures Using a Rotational Viscometer
  - D6521 Practice for Accelerated Aging of Asphalt Binder Using a Pressurized Aging Vessel (PAV)
  - D6648 Test Method for Determining the Flexural Creep Stiffness of Asphalt Binder Using the Bending Beam Rheometer (BBR)
  - D6723 Test Method for Determining the Fracture Properties of Asphalt Binder in Direct Tension (DT) (Withdrawn 2021)<sup>4</sup>
  - D6816 Practice for Determining Low-Temperature Performance Grade (PG) of Asphalt Binders
  - D7175 Test Method for Determining the Rheological Properties of Asphalt Binder Using a Dynamic Shear Rheometer
  - D7553 Test Method for Solubility of Asphalt Materials in N-Propyl Bromide
- ### 2.2 AASHTO Standards:<sup>5</sup>
- AASHTO R 29 Grading or Verifying the Performance Grade of an Asphalt Binder
  - AASHTO M 320 Standard Specification for Performance-Graded Asphalt Binder

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Definitions for many terms common to asphalt binder are found in Terminology D8.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D04 on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D04.40 on Asphalt Specifications.

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<sup>2</sup> This specification is based on SHRP Product 1001 and AASHTO MP1.

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>4</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

<sup>5</sup> Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 444 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 249, Washington, DC 20001, <http://www.transportation.org>.

## 4. Ordering Information

4.1 When ordering under this specification, include in the purchase order the performance grade (PG) of asphalt binder required and the table used (for example, PG 52-16, [Table 1](#) or PG 64-34, [Table 2](#)). If no table is specified, the default is [Table 1](#).

NOTE 4—Agencies may elect to specify PG grades not listed in the tables, either outside the table limits or between listed grades, based on specific design or performance criteria. For these PG grades it is still appropriate to test the original and RTFO DSR at the specified PG high temperature, and BBR at the specified PG low temperature +10 °C and PAV DSR at  $(PG\ high + PG\ low)/2 + 4$  °C, for example, for PG 64-22,  $(64 + (-22))/2 + 4 = 25$ .

NOTE 5—The different generations of the LTPPBind program use different algorithms and weather databases for determining the PG high temperature for a location. The choice of which LTPPBind version to use is up to the specifier.

## 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Asphalt binder shall be prepared by the refining of crude petroleum, with or without the addition of modifiers.

5.2 Modifiers may be any materials of suitable manufacture that are used in virgin or recycled condition, and that are capable of being dissolved, dispersed, or reacted in asphalt binder with the objective of improving its performance.

NOTE 6—This specification is not intended to address the grading of asphalt binders containing particulate or fibrous materials larger than 250  $\mu\text{m}$  in size.

5.3 The asphalt binder shall be homogeneous, free from water and deleterious materials, and shall not foam when heated to 175 °C.

5.4 The asphalt binder shall be at least 99.0 % soluble, as determined by Test Method [D2042](#) or [D7553](#). Any insoluble component shall be substantially free of fibers.

5.5 The grades of asphalt binder shall conform to the requirements given in [Table 1](#) or [Table 2](#).

NOTE 7—Conformance with all of the parameters of this specification is

not a guarantee that the asphalt concrete mix made from these products will perform in the field. The end user of asphalt binders should assess the suitability of the binder to meet the performance requirements of the projects on which they will be used.

## 6. Sampling

6.1 The material shall be sampled in accordance with Practice [D140/D140M](#).

## 7. Test Methods

7.1 The properties outlined in [5.3](#), [5.4](#), and [5.5](#) shall be determined in accordance with Test Methods [D92](#), [D95](#), [D2042](#), [D2872](#), and [D4402/D4402M](#), Practice [D6521](#), Test Methods [D6648](#) and [D6723](#), Practice [D6816](#), and Test Method [D7553](#) or [D7175](#).

## 8. Inspection and Certification

8.1 Inspection and certification of the material shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller. Specific requirements shall be made part of the purchase contract. The seller shall provide material handling and storage procedures for each asphalt binder grade certified.

NOTE 8—A number of relevant research studies have suggested that limits for the loss stiffness for the binder,  $G^* \cdot \sin \delta$ , in the ASTM and AASHTO PG Binder Specification is, by itself, not a sufficient indicator of fatigue performance of an asphalt cement, or the asphalt concrete in asphalt pavement structures, or both.

## 9. Rejection and Rehearing

9.1 If the results of any test do not conform to the requirements of this specification, retesting to determine conformity is performed as indicated in the purchase order or as otherwise agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller.

## 10. Keywords

10.1 asphalt binder; asphalt cement; direct tension; flash point; modifier; performance specifications; pressure aging; rheology