

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE DIVISION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No. III.C.3
Supersedes Date 12/08/89
Date August 3, 1992

Draft _____
Final X
Pages 1

Topic: Cutback Asphalt

Distribution: All Policy Holders

This document provides guidance in the sampling of cutback asphalt at batch plants, or at locations of paving or maintenance activities.

Asphalt surfaces and pavements are composed of compacted aggregate and an asphalt binder which holds the aggregate together, preventing displacement and loss of aggregate, providing a waterproof cover for the base. Cutback asphalt is one type of binder. It is composed of asphalt cement, a semi-solid material which is thinned or "cutback" with heavy residual oils, kerosene-type solvents or naphtha and gasoline solvents. Cutback asphalt is normally sprayed onto the aggregate from a tank truck. Depending on the curing or drying time, cutback asphalts fall into one of three categories: rapid cure, medium cure and slow cure. District Rule 329 regulates the use of all three types¹.

Equipment: Rubber gloves, disposable wipes, a mechanical extension arm², a sample container, and a Sample Identification Tag (ENF-21).

Because cutback asphalt is a viscous liquid, it is necessary to obtain the sample, when possible, from a drain cock/valve in a storage container or delivery/supply line. If this approach is not feasible at a job site, position the sample container under the dispensing spray nozzle(s). The inspector should use the mechanical arm, as necessary, to avoid being splashed with asphalt.

Fill the sample container to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ capacity, clean the outside of the container with a disposable wipe(s); complete and attach a Sample Identification Tag (ENF-21). Follow the chain of custody procedures outlined in Policy Number III.B.

¹ Rule 329 defines "Road Oils" as slow cure asphalt.

² This device has a set of "claws" on one end of a long metal rod. The "claws" can be opened to grip a sample container.