Fall 2026 Viscosity Graded Asphalt Proficiency Samples 285 (A) and 286 (B)
Sample Instructions

Closing Date: January 7, 2027

General Information:

Treat each sample as you would treat a typical sample brought into the laboratory. Any special handling or preparation instructions are included below. Conduct tests on each of the two samples in accordance with the instructions below. Report the results of a single determination only, not the average of two or more, unless specified in the test method or instructions.

The instructions and data sheet may direct laboratories to report the results to an extra decimal place beyond what is required by a test method. This extra level of precision improves the quality of the statistical analysis by giving us more detailed data for evaluation

To permit an estimate of single-operator precision, the same operator should conduct an individual test on both samples. It is not necessary that the same person conduct all the tests in the sample round.

Leave the appropriate spaces on the data sheet blank for any tests you choose not to perform.

Requirements for AASHTO Accredited Laboratories:

AASHTO accredited laboratories are required to perform every test included in an AASHTO re:source Proficiency Sample Program sample round that is also listed in each laboratory's AASHTO Accreditation scope.

AASHTO Accreditation Policy on PSP Participation

The tests that are not listed in the laboratory's accreditation scope may also be performed, but testing is not required, and the AASHTO Accreditation Program (AAP) will not evaluate the ratings.

Sample Information:

The outside of the box is labeled 285 (A) and 286 (B). The cans inside the box are labeled only (A) and (B). The can labeled (A) is sample 285. The can labeled (B) is sample 286.

Test Methods:

Penetration of Bituminous Materials at 25°C, AASHTO T49-26 or ASTM D5/D5M-20: Report the average of three penetrations at 25ºC, 100 g, 5 s to the nearest whole unit.

Penetration of Bituminous Materials at 4°C, AASHTO T49-26 or ASTM D5/D5M-20: Report the average of three penetrations at 4ºC, 200 g, 60 s to the nearest whole unit.

Flash Point of Asphalt Binder by Cleveland Open Cup, AASHTO T48-22 or ASTM D92-24: Report the flash point to the nearest ºC (estimated). Correct the observed value for barometric pressure if necessary. If a skin forms, move it aside carefully with a glass rod or spatula and continue with the determination of the flash point. Please note this condition under "comments" when results are submitted.

Specific Gravity of Semi-Solid Asphalt Materials, AASHTO T228-22 or ASTM D70/D70M-21: Determine the specific gravity at 25°C relative to water at 25°C. Report the results to the nearest 0.0001 gravity unit.

Kinematic Viscosity of Asphalts, AASHTO T201-26 or ASTM D2170/D2170M-24: Report the kinematic viscosity at 135°C in mm^2/s (cSt) to four significant figures.

ACCREDITED Proficiency Testing Provider CERTIFICATE # 4159.01
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Viscosity of Asphalts by Vacuum Capillary Viscometer, AASHTO T202-26 or ASTM D2171/D2171M-22: Report the viscosity, at 60°C and 300 mm Hg vacuum, in Pa·s to four significant figures. (1 Pa·s is equivalent to 10 poise.)

Rolling Thin Film Oven Test (RTFO) Change in Mass, AASHTO T240-23 or ASTM D2872-22: Determine the masses of the samples and containers to the nearest mg (0.001 g). Report, to the nearest 0.001 %, the average change in mass of the material. **Please use a negative number to report a mass loss and a positive number to report a mass gain.**

Penetration of the RTFO Residue at 25°C, AASHTO T49-26 or ASTM D5/D5M-20: Report the average of three penetrations at 25ºC, 100 g, 5 s to the nearest whole unit.

Penetration of Bituminous Materials at 4°C, AASHTO T49-26 or ASTM D5/D5M-20: Report the average of three penetrations at 4ºC, 200 g, 60 s to the nearest whole unit.

Kinematic Viscosity of the RTFO Residue at 135°C, AASHTO T201-26 or ASTM D2170/D2170M-24: Report the kinematic viscosity at 135°C in mm^2/s (cSt) to four significant figures.

Viscosity of the RTFO Residue at 60°C, AASHTO T202-26 or ASTM D2171/D2171M-22: Report the viscosity of the residue, at 60°C and 300 mm Hg vacuum, in Pa·s to four significant figures. (1 Pa·s is equivalent to 10 poise.)

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