

Lab Corner Asphalt

The Asphalt Institute's lab is available to perform research, testing and training.

Proficiency Sample Program for Roofing Asphalt Binders

For many years, the AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory (AMRL) has conducted proficiency sample programs for a variety of tests related to highway materials. Using the data generated in these programs, the appropriate between-lab reproducibility of a specific test could be determined. This estimate of variability has helped testing labs understand why another lab, such as a state highway agency's lab, could have a seemingly different, and possibly failing, result even though the testing lab's result passed the specification.

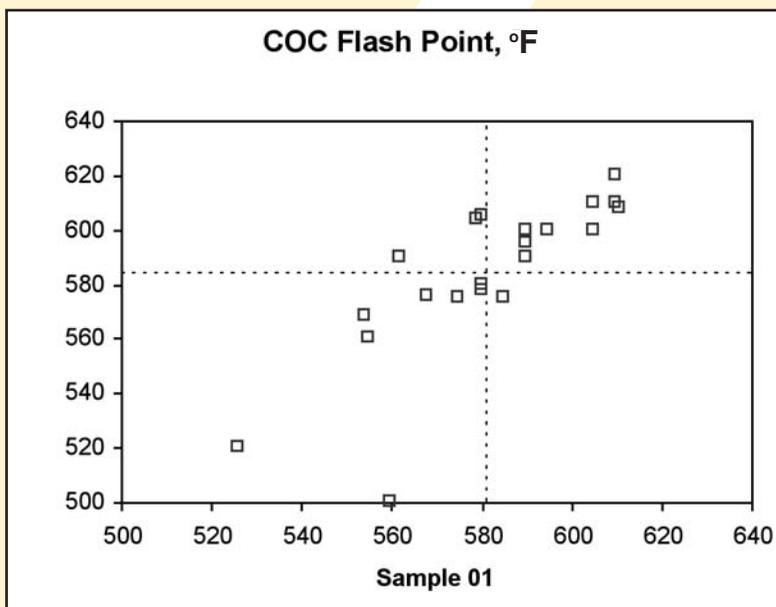
Starting in 1999, Paramount Petroleum Corporation initiated a similar program for roofing asphalt binders based on the tests in ASTM D312, *Standard Specification for Asphalt Used in Roofing*. In 2005, the Asphalt Institute became involved with the operation of the proficiency sample program. The price for the 2005 program was established at \$270 for each set of two samples.

This year's program started in June with each participating lab receiving two individual pint containers (Sample 01 and 02) of roofing asphalt binder.

Participants were asked to perform four tests – Ring and Ball Softening Point (ASTM D36); Cleveland Open Cup Flash Point (ASTM D92); Penetration at 77°F (ASTM D5); and Rotational Viscosity at 400°F (ASTM D4402) – on each sample and provide results back to AI by the end of July. AI then analyzed the data and returned a report to the participants in early September.

A survey is currently being conducted to provide feedback on the proficiency sample program. Responses to questions regarding the clarity of the data form and instructions, best and worst time of year for the program, and participant cost will help shape the program details for the future. It is expected that the proficiency sample program will better help labs to understand the appropriate testing reproducibility of some common tests for roofing asphalts.

For more information on the Asphalt Institute's Proficiency Sample Program for Roofing Asphalts, please contact either Shay Emmons, Program Manager (semmons@asphaltinstitute.org) or Mike Anderson (manderson@asphaltinstitute.org). ▲



This scatter diagram illustrates the variability of test results obtained for the flash point of two roofing asphalt samples.

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