Asphalt Release Agents

Product Acceptance Criteria & Information

Products on the Asphalt Release Agents list (ARA) are required to be tested through AASHTO’s National Transportation Evaluation Program (NTPEP). In addition, ARAs must remain current with NTPEP’s policy regarding periodic re-testing as required by the program. Please include the results of NTPEP testing with submittal.

Asphalt Release Agents (ARA) are used to facilitate the release of the hot mix asphalt (HMA) from production plant equipment such as slat elevators, truck beds on trucks transporting this material to project sites, and on all roadway paving equipment such as the paver, roller, and hand tools. The ARAs are used in lieu of diesel fuel and other solvents which strip or separate the asphalt from the aggregate in paving mixtures and may pose potential fire and other safety hazards to workers.


The following are MaineDOT’s minimum requirements for asphalt release agents per NTPEP’s Test Results:

- **7 Day Stripping Test:** Does not strip in full strength and diluted strength forms.
- **Mixture Slide Test:** 10.0 grams retained, maximum
- **Asphalt Performance Test Results:** Does not fail after 3 pours.

MaineDOT Safety Requirements: Have a rating no higher than zero (0) for all National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Hazard Codes. If using HMIS, a rating no higher than one (1) is acceptable for Health and a zero (0) is required for both Flammability and Reactivity codes.

- Have a flash point greater than 400°F (204°C) on the undiluted product.
- Contain no flammable materials, solvents, or petroleum elements.
- Contain components that do not exceed the acceptable limits and shall contain no polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) listed in the RCRA.

**PRODUCT CONFORMITY:** At the discretion of MaineDOT, any shipment of product to a MaineDOT location may be tested, such as by infrared or gas chromatography, for compliance with the SDS and uniformity with the formulation of the approved product (where applicable).

**NOTE:** MaineDOT may require a field evaluation before final acceptance and inclusion on the Qualified Products List (QPL).

A vendor who wishes to have products preapproved for future use should contact MaineDOT’s Product Evaluation Coordinator via email at NewProducts.MaineDOT@maine.gov or by calling (207)624-3268.

Product submittals shall include: a completed New Product Evaluation form, a copy of the technical data sheet, current Safety Data Sheet (SDS), and third party, independent test results (or NTPEP test reports where applicable). **Any incomplete submittals will not be evaluated for inclusion on MaineDOT’s Product Lists.**

All reports shall be issued and signed by an authorized laboratory representative. The report shall also include the physical and/or chemical requirements stated herein.
Any change in a product, such as formulation, shall require re-testing (through NTPEP if required) and resubmission of an independent analytical laboratory report (or NTPEP testing report) prior to purchase by MaineDOT.

**MaineDOT requires re-certification by all manufacturers every five years** (except for electrodes used for field welding which are recertified every year) to ensure that product names and formulations have remained the same since the product was originally placed on this list and that products are still relevant and in production. This shall include the most recent NTPEP testing. NTPEP provides for retesting of this product category on a 5-year basis. A lapse of NTPEP test results may result in disqualification of the product.

The Department continues to evaluate its Acceptance Criteria and reserves the right to revise the criteria and/or withdraw product qualification at any time for any reason without notice. Furthermore, the ability of a product to meet these requirements does not necessarily guarantee addition to the Qualified Products List. Reminder that, products once placed on the Qualified Products List are to be considered prequalified for use only, meaning that they have undergone preliminary review for compliance with MaineDOT, and AASHTO specifications. As with all products, final approval rests with the Designer, Project Manager, Supplier and/or Resident to determine if a product best suits the need of a particular project.

If you are experiencing difficulties reading or printing this page, or have questions regarding the Qualified Products List website, please contact the Product Evaluation Program Coordinator at 207-624-3268 or by email at: NewProducts.MaineDOT@maine.gov