



Nomenclature for Asphalt Cement Grades



Asphalt Cement Supplier Members of the Ontario Asphalt Pavement Council (OAPC) met on February 2nd, 2018 to discuss standardizing the nomenclature of common Asphalt Cement (AC) grades currently being specified in Ontario. OAPC is a council of the Ontario Road Builders Association (ORBA).

While the OAPC/ORBA and The Asphalt Institute fully support the implementation of AASHTO M-332 Multiple Stress Creep Recovery (MSCR) grading for all AC used in Ontario, we are aware of the confusion among AC suppliers, Hot Mix Producers and user agencies with regard to the different names used to designate the various grades. Because of the large number of different specifications being used at this time it is impractical to develop a system that will encompass them all, so it was decided to address the more common specifications. Individual suppliers may use their own unique names for grades meeting specifications other than those addressed below.

In consideration of these issues, the following was established and will be implemented by suppliers as of March 1st, 2018. While not all binder specifications may fall in one of these categories, it is hoped that most will.

Please see the back of this sheet to review nomenclature guidelines for AC Grades.

“Standard” AASHTO M-320 grades will continue to be designated as “PG XX-YY”.

AASHTO M-332 (MSCR) will continue to be designated as “PG XXS-YY”, “PG XXH-YY”, “PG XXV-YY”, “PG XXE-YY”.

M-320 grades with the “PG Plus” requirements Extended BBR (LS-308), DENT (LS-299) and MSCR % Recovery will bear the suffix “X”.

M-320 or M-332 grades to which the supplier has not added any of the banned additives in the list found in many current Municipal specifications will bear the suffix “J”.

Examples of grade designations under this system are provided below;

64-28	Meets AASHTO M-320
58V-28	Meets AASHTO M-332
64-28X	Meets AASHTO M-320, Extended BBR at -YY, DENT and MSCR % Recovery.
58-34XJ	Meets AASHTO M-320, Extended BBR at -YY, DENT and MSCR % Recovery, supplier has not added any of the materials from the banned additives list.
52-34J	Meets AASHTO M-320, supplier has not added any of the materials from the banned additives list.
58V-28X	Meets AASHTO M-332, Extended BBR at -YY, DENT and MSCR % Recovery.
58H-28J	Meets AASHTO M-332, supplier has not added any of the materials from the banned additives list.

ORBA, OAPC and the Asphalt Institute strongly recommend that specifications be unified and we encourage owner agencies to adopt this product naming in their Contract Documents. We recommend that any questions about this issue to be directed to OAPC or Ontario Asphalt Cement suppliers.



A Council of the Ontario Road Builders' Association

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