



April 22, 2005

To: Roofing Asphalt Testing Laboratories

From: Mike Anderson
Director of Research and Laboratory Services – Asphalt Institute

Re: Proficiency Sample Program for Roofing Asphalt

The Asphalt Institute has developed a Proficiency Sample Program for Roofing Asphalts that is intended to be similar to the AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory (AMRL) proficiency sample programs for paving asphalt binders. The details of the program follow.

Each participating lab will receive one sample container with testing and reporting instructions annually. Participating labs will be requested to perform several common tests for roofing asphalts as listed in ASTM D312, *Standard Specification for Asphalt Used in Roofing*. These tests include the following:

- Softening Point ASTM D36, *Test Method for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring & Ball Apparatus)*;
- Flash Point ASTM D92, *Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup*;
- Rotational Viscosity at 204°C ASTM D4402, *Test Method for Viscosity Determination of Asphalt at Elevated Temperatures Using a Rotational Viscometer*; and
- Penetration at 25°C ASTM D5, *Test Method for Penetration of Bituminous Materials*

Other tests listed in ASTM D312 – such as ductility (ASTM D113), solubility (ASTM D2042), and penetration at 0 and 46°C – are not included in this initial proficiency sample program offering, but may be included in future offerings if so desired.

Participants will have approximately 4-6 weeks after receipt of the sample to complete testing and submit test results to the Asphalt Institute for analysis. After the closing date (shown on the test results form), all data will be analyzed and a summary report will be submitted to each participant showing their individual lab results and a comparison with the rest of the labs. Since the proficiency program will not involve accreditation, it will be the participating lab's decision how to address test results that are more than two standard deviations from the mean. Scatter diagrams and QC charts are particularly helpful in visually identifying trends within a lab.

Based on some assumptions about the number of participating labs, we have established a cost of \$270 per sample to participate in the 2005 proficiency sample program. To enroll in the 2005 Proficiency Sample Program for Roofing Asphalts, please fill out the attached form for each participating lab (i.e., one form per sample) and **return it to the Asphalt Institute by May 31, 2005**. Samples should be distributed to participating labs in June.

Please feel free to contact me (859-288-4984 or manderson@asphaltinstitute.org) or our program coordinator, Shay Emmons (859-288-4982 or semmons@asphaltinstitute.org) if you have any questions. Thanks for your interest in this program!

Roofing Asphalt Proficiency Program Request Form

RETURN TO:

Shay Emmons
Asphalt Materials Technologist
Asphalt Institute
2696 Research Park Drive
Lexington, KY 40511

Email: semmons@asphaltinstitute.org
Phone: 859.288.4982
Fax: 859.288.4999
Web: www.asphaltinstitute.org

We would like to participate in the roofing asphalt proficiency sample program:

Contact Name _____ Email Address _____
Title _____ Phone Number _____
Company Name _____ Fax Number _____

Mailing Address

Billing Address

Cost:

\$270.00

Payment:

Please Bill Us:
Check Enclosed*: *Payable to "Asphalt Institute"
Credit Card: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

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CARD ACCOUNT NUMBER

□□ - □□

EXPIRATION DATE

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____



ASPHALT INSTITUTE

Roofing Asphalt Proficiency Program